ENTERTAINMENT / A21, A24

Gloria Romero reminisces with friends at husband Juancho Gutierrez's wake

Dollywood caught between her 2 quarreling pals, Aiko, Alana

NEWS / A2

Filipino conquers 26,750-foot in the Himalayas

BUSINESS / B3

ADB sets aside P2.4B for SME development in RP

PCGG to probe Enrile raps on 'looting' of Imelda jewels

By Norman Bordadora and Alcuin Papa

WITH THE PLANNED SALE OF THE IMELDA Marcos jewels, an old controversy surrounding them have resurfaced with suggestions that the remaining pieces were nothing more than leftovers from a fabulous treasure trove.

Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile remarked to a Mani-

PCGG/ A4

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Marcos wealth honestly earned, says Imelda

SURROUNDED BY MEmentos of years in power and a new shoe collection, Imelda Marcos says Filipinos support her in her court battle to prevent the sale of her jewelry.

MARCOS/ A4

email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph

Thursday, October 6, 2005 ★★ 40 pages / 4 sections / Vol. 20 / No. 300 P18

website: www.inq7.net

Terror bill sparks fears

Opposition, militants, Muslim bloc warn of creeping martial law

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr. and Michael Lim Ubac

"AN UNDECLARED MARTIAL LAW" SUMS UP the sentiments of the opponents of the draft antiterror bill.

But the bill approved by the House committees on justice and foreign affairs on Tuesday has the full support of President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Yesterday afternoon, the President herself moderated a 30-minute program aired live on public television and radio, in which lawmakers and security officials—including Apec Counterterrorist Task Force chief Benjamin Defensor—drummed up support for the bill and its swift enactment in Congress.

After the program, Ms Arroyo was overheard asking her officials when she was going to certify the draft bill. Gabriel Claudio, Ms Arroyo's adviser on political affairs, said the bill was "as good as certified."

Claudio told the INQUIRER that all fears against the bill were "unfounded."

"It is not the intention of the bill to curtail the rights of individuals. We have global terrorist threats that we are concerned with, and that is why we need a broad and strong antiterror law," he said.

The antiterror bill has been sharply criticized because it provides for warrantless arrests, fines of up to P10 million, harsh penalties such as long imprisonment or death, and limits on the media's access to suspected terrorists.

Iloilo Rep. Rolex Suplico said he and his colleagues in the opposition would scrutinize the antiterror bill, which, he pointed out, was "a way of amending the Constitution."

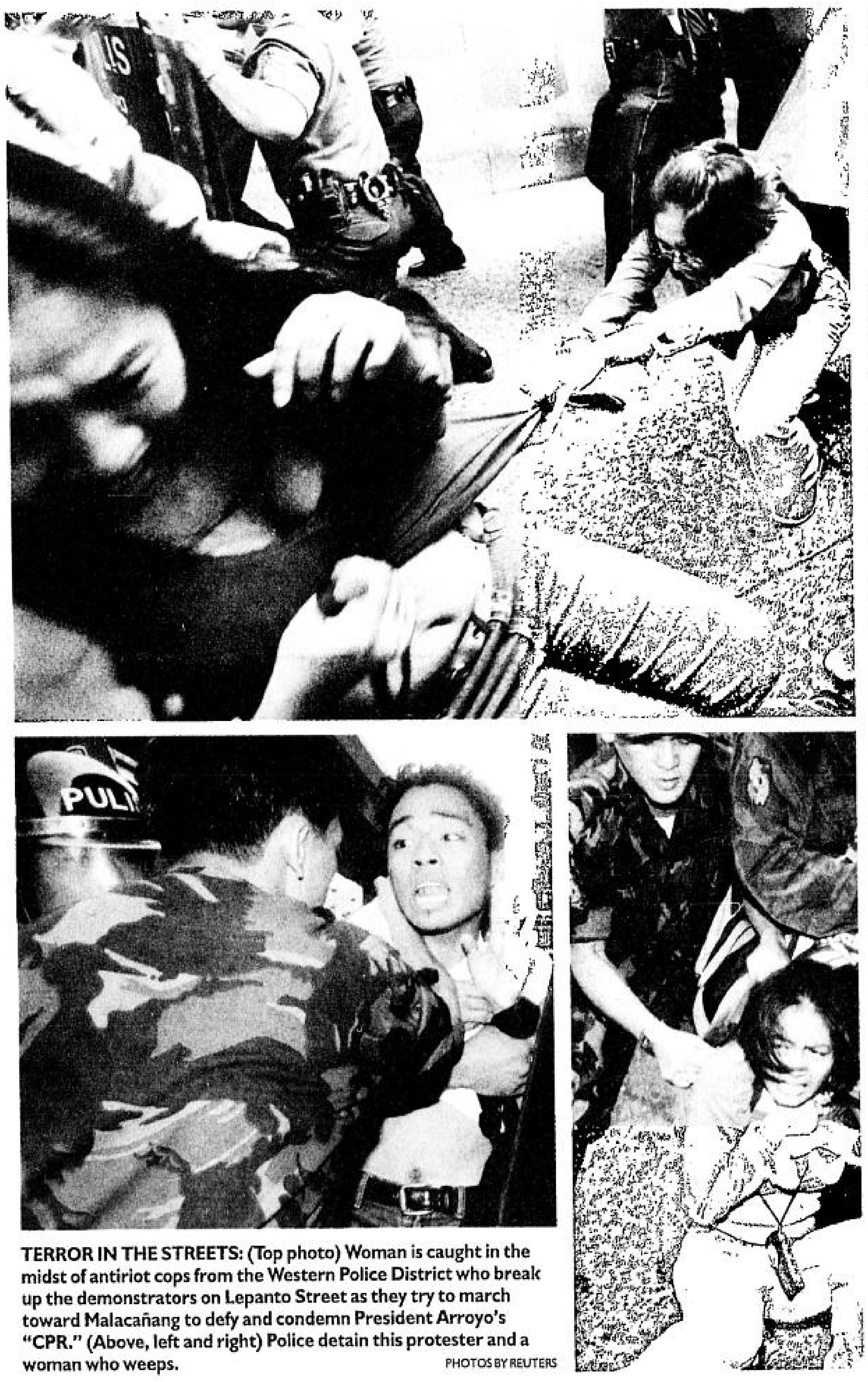
He said the bill could lead to the "annihilation of the legitimate opposition in this country."

He also said: "We think we have already gone past the boundary of creeping martial law. We are already under an undeclared martial law."

Suplico said the undeclared martial law was indicated by these recent moves by Malacañang:

- The "no permit, no rally" policy followed by the calibrated preemptive response policy, both aimed at regulating street rallies.

TERROR/ A6



TERROR IN THE STREETS: (Top photo) Woman is caught in the midst of antiriot cops from the Western Police District who break up the demonstrators on Lepanto Street as they try to march toward Malacañang to defy and condemn President Arroyo's "CPR." (Above, left and right) Police detain this protester and a woman who weeps.

PHOTOS BY REUTERS

Cops beat up protesters; 15 arrested

By Margaux C. Ortiz, Tarra V. Quismundo and Tina G. Santos

FIFTEEN MORE DEMONSTRATORS were arrested yesterday in yet another violent dispersal of a protest action by the Manila Police District (MPD).

The 15, all members of militant groups, were arrested while attempting to march to Mendiola from Morayta to denounce Malacañang's calibrated preemptive response (CPR) policy.

TV footage showed a number of protesters, including an elderly woman, being roughed up by police. The number of those injured could not be immediately determined.

Those arrested were Wilson Fortaleza and Rasti Delizo of Sanlakas;

COPS/ A6

SC to Palace: Justify EO 464 in 10 days

By Christine O. Avendaño, TJ Burgonio and Armand N. Nocum

UNPERTURBED BY A SENATE challenge in the Supreme Court, President Macapagal-Arroyo's administration is drawing up the ground rules for the participation of the executive branch in congressional hearings, officials said yesterday.

A day after 16 pro- and anti-administration senators agreed to go to the Supreme Court to question the legality of Executive Order No. 464, the high tribunal directed Malacañang to justify the issuance of the controversial order within 10 days.

In a resolution, the court also

SC TO PALACE/ A4

LET ME COUNT THE WAYS. President Arroyo explains the raging issues such as EO 464 and her policy of "calibrated preemptive response" and the antiterror bill ranged against her administration during a roundtable discussion with congressmen and the top brass of the military and police.

EDWIN BACASMAS

US opens market for Ifugao rice

By Vincent Cabreza
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

BAGUIO CITY—Organic rice grown on the centuries-old rice terraces of Ifugao and the paddies of Kalinga will soon be on the dining tables of families in the United States.

A Cavite-based export firm has opened a market in the United States for indigenous rice varieties.

Victoria Garcia, chair of Revitalized Indigenous Rice Entrepreneurs Inc., shipped 720 kilograms of Kalinga and other rice varieties to Montana on Tuesday, after they passed US food and trade standards.

Garcia said the shipment opened a wide market for Ifugao's "tinawon" rice variety and Kalinga's "unoy," a highly priced red rice variety that is grown through traditional farming methods.

"We are filling the US demand

US OPENS/ A5

Marinduque sues big Canadian mining company in Las Vegas

LAS VEGAS, NEVADA—THE Marinduque provincial government has filed a lawsuit in Nevada accusing Canadian mining giant Placer Dome Inc. of damaging the environment and health of residents of an island in Southern Tagalog nine years ago.

"They should and must answer for what they have done," Marinduque Gov. Carmencita Reyes said Tuesday in announcing that the lawsuit had been filed in Clark County District Court.

Placer Dome spokesperson Gayle Stewart in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada, said the company had not been served with the claim and could not immediately comment.

Reyes and Walter "Skip" Scott Jr., a Dallas-based lawyer representing Marinduque in the case, blamed Placer Dome for an environmental accident that sent millions of tons of open-pit copper mine waste down a river to the provincial capital of Boac in March 1996.

Placer Dome is one of the world's largest gold mining companies, with 13,000 employees and interests in 16 mining operations in seven countries, according to its website.

MARINDUQUE/ A4

Support pours in for Bro. Eddie awaiting arrest

By Christian V. Esguerra and Armand N. Nocum

WHILE BRO. EDDIE VILLANUEVA waited for his arrest yesterday on charges of estafa filed by businessman Benito Araneta, a cousin of First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo, he was swamped by an outpouring of support.

Lingayen-Dagupan Archbishop Oscar Cruz said he would join Villanueva in jail if the evangelist was arrested.

"I believe the truth is on the side of Bro. Eddie," Cruz told the INQUIRER from Pangasinan. "To me, it's purely harassment of a righteous and principled man."

More than 200 supporters, including opposition figures and congressmen, trooped to Legend Villas Hotel in Mandaluyong City to give moral support to the leader of Jesus Is Lord movement, a vocal critic of President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Villanueva holed up at the hotel a day after Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez said he had ordered the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) to arrest him.

The warrant was triggered by the complaint of Araneta that Villanueva's Zoe Broadcasting Network Inc. had terminated a joint agreement to manage Channel 11 on free TV.

But Villanueva said the businessman reneged on his responsibility to remit 60 percent of the earnings to Zoe and pocketed everything. Araneta, in fact, owed him nearly P200 million in lost revenue, according to the evangelist.

As of press time, authorities had not arrested the JIL leader.

At a press conference with Villanueva, lawyer Francisco

SUPPORT/ A6

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Luzon and Visayas will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms, while Mindanao will have partly cloudy to cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers and thunderstorms.

SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY: CYRIL L. BONABENTE, PDI RESEARCH/10/06/05

Metro Manila	Cloudy with Rains	Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Cloudy with Rains	Roxas	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Cloudy with Rains	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Cloudy with Rains	Gen. Santos	Partly Cloudy
Tagaytay	Cloudy with Rains	Zamboanga	Partly Cloudy
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Partly Cloudy
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	Davao	Partly Cloudy

Luisita for sale: P1M per ha.

By Blanche S. Rivera

EVEN AS ITS LAWYERS PREPARE TO FIGHT OFFICIAL MOVES TO redistribute its land to farm workers, the Hacienda Luisita Inc. has reportedly been sounding out government for a voluntary sale of the nearly 5,000-hectare sugar estate at an inflated price.

Agrarian reform officials said the HLI has sent out feelers that it was open to the voluntary-offer-to-sell scheme under the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CARP) if the Cojuangco family, the owners of the estate, would be paid P1 million per hectare.

At that rate, the compensation for the 4,915-ha estate would reach some P4.9 billion.

A Department of Agrarian Reform official, who asked not to be named, said the rate was "too much."

"They cannot demand that amount because the land will be appraised based on its productivity, and they themselves have said that the sugar lands have not been very productive the past years, that's why they said they were losing," said the DAR official.

DAR officials said that in previous VOS arrangements, sugar lands fetched only from P100,000 to P300,000 per hectare.

The DAR last week decided to revoke the 16-year-old stock distribution agreement between HLI and its farm workers, paving the way for the redistribution of the estate.

The decision has been endorsed to the Presidential Agrarian Reform Council, chaired by President Macapagal-Arroyo, which will have the final say on Hacienda Luisita's fate.

A DAR director, who also requested anonymity, said he had casually raised the VOS scheme with HLI spokesperson Vigor Mendoza II last week before the DAR came out with its decision.

He said Mendoza asked if the government had the money to pay the owners the same rate that the Bases Conversion Development Authority paid for the 77 ha it took from HLI for the Subic-Clark Expressway.

The BCDA paid P100 per square meter, or P1 million per hectare, for the expressway right of way.

"That means they're open to the VOS at the right price," the official said.

Mendoza said the HLI management has not yet seriously discussed what "just compensation" it would demand for the estate because it was still waiting for the PARC decision.

The HLI spokesperson said the VOS was "touched lightly as an option" at a recent meeting of HLI lawyers.

He denied that the HLI would only accept an offer of P1 million per hectare, saying the management was aware of the Land Bank's land valuation formula.

Agrarian Reform Secretary Nasser C. Pangandaman has said the government has enough funds to compensate the Cojuangcos, noting that he budget department has just released P2.11 billion to the Land Bank as payment for what the bank had advanced to pay landowners for lands covered by CARP.

In Baguio City, a senior Land Bank official said the government bank would review the valuation system for all sugar estates in the wake of the Hacienda Luisita decision. *With a report from Vincent Cabreza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Gov't cancels safe-conduct passes for NDF negotiators

By Christine O. Avendaño

THE GOVERNMENT YESTERDAY canceled immunity guarantees to 97 negotiators of the communist National Democratic Front (NDF) for the second time in two months after the rebels refused to resume peace talks despite efforts by the Norwegian government to get the two sides together.

The Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process (OPAPP) said that with the lifting of the free-passage guarantees, the rebels face immediate arrest and possible new charges because of "continued atrocities" by the New People's Army, the NDF's militia.

The government and the NDF have been holding peace talks sporadically since 1986 with the negotiations breaking off repeatedly.

"The suspension of the (immunity guarantees) is the government's response to the NDF's unchanged position, effectively withdrawing from the peace negotiations," the OPAPP said in a statement.

It said the government resorted to the measure because the NDF had reneged on an agreement to resume formal peace talks reached during a consultation between the two sides in Oslo, Norway, last Aug. 28-30, after the on-and-off peace talks had stalled once again.

New demands

The NDF denied having made such an agreement and issued several demands, including the release of "political prisoners" or leftist militants and the delisting of the CPP-NPA as a "terrorist organization" by the United States and the European Union.

It also accused government agents of plotting to assassinate senior NDF legal consultant Romeo Capulong and founder Jose Maria Sison.

The NDF negotiators, composed of rebel leaders, support staff and security guards, previously enjoyed immunity from arrest provided they did not commit new crimes.

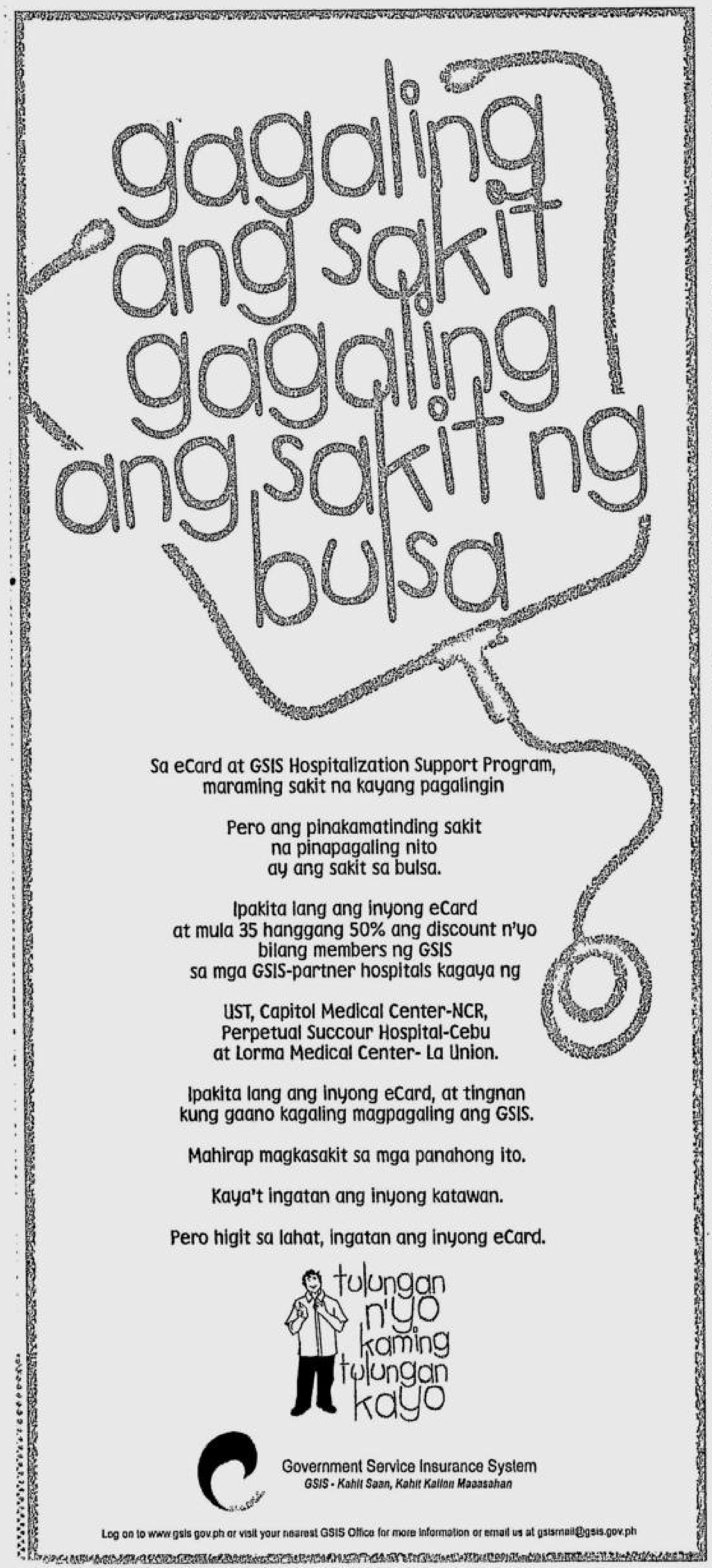
The government first notified the NDF it was suspending the immunity guarantees last Aug. 3 but took it back when the rebels agreed to the informal talks in Oslo.

The OPAPP said that apart from the rebels' refusal to reopen the talks, what prompted its decision to revoke the guarantees were the "continued atrocities committed by their forces on the ground."

It said, however, that it would continue to pursue "the government's other paths to peace as it keep its doors open for negotiations."

Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Generoso Senga told reporters in Malacañang that he was not aware of OPAPP's new order but the military would "do what's allowable" and he would discuss this with Nieves Confesor, the head of the government panel.

"We can see at various instances that they (NDF) would come out with reasons for not pursuing peace talks but our government has been very patient with them and sincere in pursuing peace with them," the AFP chief said, lamenting that there was "no reciprocal sincerity on their part." *With a report from AFP*



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Insurance commish head axed

By Michelle V. Remo

AFTER GETTING Malacañang's assurance in August that he would keep his job, Insurance Commissioner Benjamin Santos was sacked yesterday from his post.

Santos confirmed to the INQUIRER last night of the Palace decision to replace him as chief of the Insurance Commission, saying that politics could have something to do with his dismissal.

According to Santos, he received a letter from Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita through Finance Secretary Gary Teves at about 3 p.m. yesterday informing him that Malacañang no longer needed his services effective immediately.

"Thank you for your services. Wishing you luck," said Ermita in his letter to Santos, who was apparently peeved by the way the termination letter was worded.

Malacañang has not named Santos' replacement.

In an interview last night, Santos said he would spill the beans on irregularities in the insurance industry.

He said he was willing to testify at any Senate inquiry into the scams in the insurance industry.

Santos was earlier reported to have tendered his resignation to preempt his imminent ouster.

He earlier said that people adversely affected by his reform programs to save the insurance industry from rampant corrupt activities were pressuring President Macapagal-Arroyo to replace him.

He recalled that after he took over the top IC post in August last year, he had prepared a development plan for the insurance industry. The plan included programs that will address the proliferation of unscrupulous firms selling fake insurance policies.

Santos said his development plan for the insurance industry included the creation of accredited consortia that would be the sole issuers of insurance policies.

Filipino conquers 26,750-foot peak

By Nikko Dizon

UNTIL HE LANDED AT THE NINOY Aquino International Airport yesterday, Romy Garduce didn't know that Manny Pacquiao is now the World Boxing Council Featherweight champion or that Precious Lara Quigaman is the reigning Miss International.

For while the country was celebrating the victories of Pacquiao and Quigaman, Garduce was battling thin air, snow and extremely cold weather and fever on Tibet's Mt. Cho-Oyu on a mission to take the Philippine flag to new heights.

On Sept. 26, at exactly 10:30 a.m. (Manila time), or about halfway through the five-week trek, Garduce reached the mountain's summit, which, at 26,750 feet above sea level, is the highest ever scaled by a Filipino. It is 2,278 feet short of Mt. Everest, the world's tallest peak at 29,028 feet, and is the ninth highest in Asia and the world.

Garduce arrived at the Naia without any fanfare at all and was surprised there were reporters.

"I feel very lucky because I made it. All my hard work and preparations paid off," he said.

Garduce left Manila for Tibet on Aug. 20 and assaulted the mountain with three other climbers – an Australian, a German and a South African.

He subsisted on freeze-dried food the entire time, and had to wear an oxygen mask as the air grew thinner and breathing became heavier toward the summit.

But the exhilarating feeling of reaching the mountaintop quickly dissipated the exhaustion, he said.

At the summit, Garduce unfurled a little Philippine flag and waved it briefly.

He said he was lucky the weather was good on the snow-covered mountain although the temperature was between -20 and -25 degrees Centigrade. A bout with "mountain sickness" almost made him abort the climb at an altitude of 21,000 but he managed to beat that, too.

Garduce, who is in his mid-30s and works as a systems analyst at a multinational company, began mountaineering as a hobby in 1991 and took mountain climbing as a serious sport in 1998.

GARDUCE waves Philippine flag on Mt. Cho-Oyu

On Jan. 1, 2005, he became the first Filipino to climb Mt. Aconcagua in Argentina, the highest mountain in the Western hemisphere at 22,834 feet.

Garduce has also made climbing his own charity work. This Cho-Oyu climb, for example, is for the benefit of the Cartwheel Foundation, which reaches out to indigenous people.

"Climbing was originally for me just a personal challenge. *Pero kinabit ko na ang* Climb-for-a-Cause *para naman may kabuluhan* (But I hitched to the Climb-for-a-Cause movement to give it more meaning)," he added.

In Climb-for-a-Cause, participating donors would either make a fixed donation or pledge an amount "for every thousand feet," Garduce said, adding he didn't know yet how much his latest climb would fetch for his favorite charity.

Although the 29,028-foot Mt. Everest beckons, Garduce said the world's tallest peak might have to wait some time. "It's too expensive, especially since I'm an individual climber. I pay for everything."

"*Talaga?*" Garduce remarked when told of Pacquiao's and Quigaman's victories. "That's good. At least we hear of the good news instead of the ugly ones like corruption and politics."

Venable financier fears NPA – Ermita

MALACAÑANG IS KEEPING MUM on who bankrolled Venable LLP's million-dollar lobbying services, not because of national security but because of the personal security of the private individual who signed the check for the controversial contract.

"It's a private person who wants to remain anonymous," said Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita in a briefing in Malacañang yesterday.

National Security Adviser Norberto Gonzales' refusal to reveal the financier of the lobbying contract with Venable despite repeated questioning by senators earned him the contempt of the Senate.

Gonzales has remained under Senate custody for the last three weeks in a hospital where he is recovering from a mild heart attack he suffered during the heated Senate inquiry.

Ermita said he had talked privately with Gonzales twice since the fateful Senate investigation and the NSA chief continued to invoke the anonymity of the private financier.

Ermita said he believes that the private donor was justified in remaining anonymous because of real fears of reprisal from enemies of the state.

AFP on Miriam's tale: What plot?

THE ARMED FORCES IS NOT TAKING seriously Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago's story about an assassination plot against President Macapagal-Arroyo by former President Corazon Aquino and Senate President Franklin Drilon.

Military officials interviewed have dismissed Santiago's claim.

One senior military intelligence official flatly denied the existence of such plot.

"None. What we have is a standing plan by the Left" to kill the commander-in-chief, said the official who asked not to be identified.

An official military spokesman said they have no information about such plot and made it plain to reporters the AFP did not want any part of it.

"We don't know anything about that," said Lt. Col. Buenaventura Pascual, the AFP public information chief.

He did not even bother to make the perfunctory comment that the AFP would at least investigate if such a plot is true.

Santiago, a former staunch ally of deposed President Joseph Estrada, said she heard from a friend who supposedly heard from a relative of Drilon that there was a plot to "physically remove" Ms Macapagal from office by Oct. 15.

She has since been lambasted by Drilon and some other lawmakers for concocting a "fantastic" tale. *Dona Pazzibugan*

Family of dead seaman to get aid

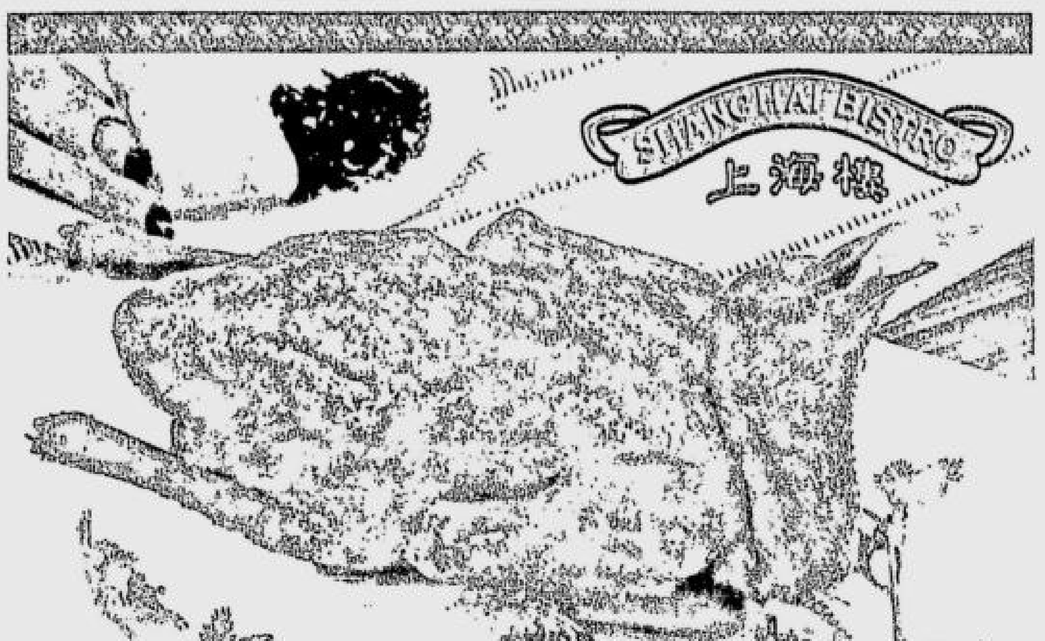
By Jeromo Aning

THE DEPARTMENT OF Labor and Employment yesterday said it would facilitate humanitarian assistance to the family of a Filipino seaman who died in Taiwan last July and has yet to be buried.

"It is a matter of compassion that the necessary humanitarian assistance shall be extended to the family of seaman Randy Nadera, considering the reported plea of his widow for assistance to bury his body with dignity," Labor undersecretary for labor relations Manuel Imson said.

Imson, acting DOLE chief while Secretary Patricia Sto. Tomas is abroad, said that through the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration, DOLE will get in touch with Nadera family and look into the "appropriate assistance and response."

The INQUIRER reported that Nadera, 34, an undocumented seaman who worked in a Taiwanese vessel, died after he apparently committed suicide by hanging himself last July 27.



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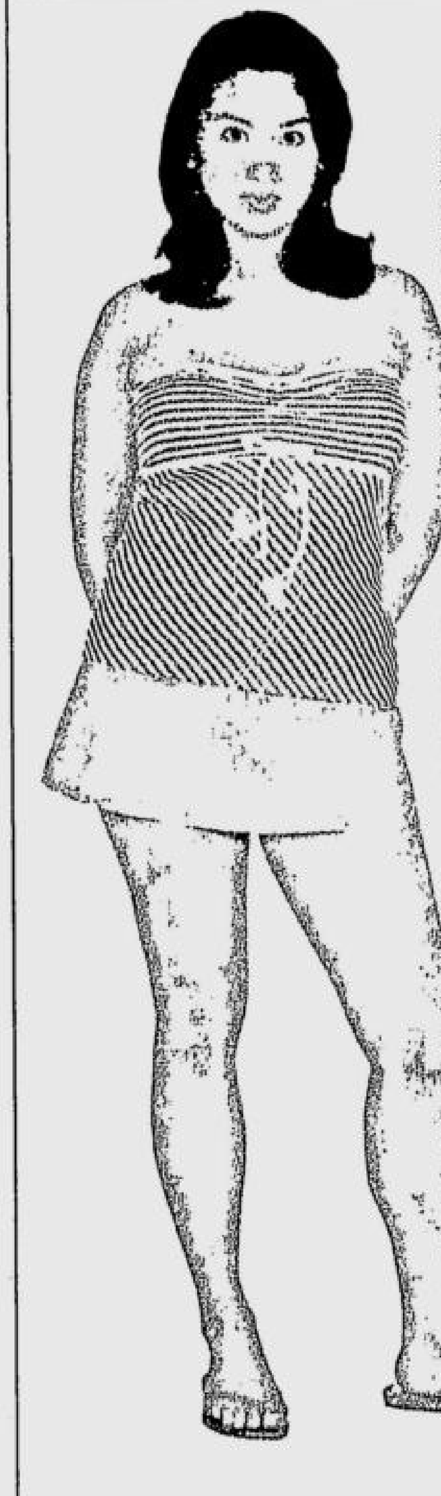

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SC to Palace: Justify EO 464 in 10 days

From page A1

announced it was consolidating various petitions on the same issue but it did not immediately set a date for a hearing nor did it act on the petition for the issuance of a temporary restraining order.

Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita welcomed the move by the 16 senators to question the constitutionality of Executive Order No. 464 issued last week. It bans government and military officials from appearing in the hearings without the President's approval.

"That's the beauty of democracy. We have three branches of government and where there are conflicts between two branches, the final arbiter and interpreter of the law is the Supreme Court," Ermita said in his weekly news conference.

Ermita said Malacañang was in the process of finalizing the ground rules to be observed in the conduct of congressional inquiries.

"We will issue a memorandum order implementing EO 464," he said.

Ermita said the Palace was talking and coordinating with leaders of both the House and the Senate on the crafting of these ground rules.

Presidential political adviser Gabriel Claudio said he had discussed with Senate Majority Leader Francis Pangilinan on Tuesday night the implications of the Senate move to legally challenge EO 464.

Dialogue on track

"We agreed it should not affect the ongoing proposal or call for a dialogue between executive and Congress regarding the EO itself and other political matters that affect the relationship between two branches of government," he said.

"While the Senate has taken the route of bringing the matter to the Supreme Court, that doesn't mean that we can't continue the constructive dialogue," Pangilinan said.

Pangilinan said that he and Palace emissaries from the business sector and the local government units were now discussing the "talking points" for the future dialogue between the President and Congress leaders.

"Those who are mediating are suggesting what are the possible talking points. That's where we are now; we're working on possible talking points before that dialogue is to take place," he said.

The talking points include setting the hearings at a date convenient to both executive and legislative branches, and sending a set of questions to the resource persons ahead of the hearings, according to the senator.

Sen. Joker Arroyo said the talks were on the right track.

"Both sides—Malacañang and the Senate—must somehow agree to resolve these differences. We're like kids trading charges and countercharges. Nothing's happening in the Senate. Malacañang is not doing anything but to criticize the Senate," he said.

Ten senators have appealed for the leaders of Congress to sit down with President Arroyo and discuss the EO.

Mutual respect

Asked to elaborate on the Palace ground rules, Ermita cited mutual respect and an understanding of the extent of what could be revealed during the hearings.

"What's the leeway? What can he say or can't say or do or what is executive privilege? How do they regard items as strictly confidential or considered impinging on national security," he added.

Claudio said the crafting of the ground rules would be done with the members of Congress so that these would be "acceptable."

Asked whether the Palace would allow government agencies to attend scheduled Senate hearings on the Northrail project and fertilizer funds, Ermita said that Malacañang was still awaiting the recommendations of the heads of these agencies.

Ermita also said the appeal made by the Palace for the Senate to release from its detention National Security Adviser Norberto Gonzales was not a condition being imposed for the lifting of the EO. He said this was just a "confidence-building measure."

"It connotes some degree of sincerity on the part of each one to show that they're indeed with all the best intention to sit down so you can accomplish something during the talks," Ermita said.

Ms Arroyo issued the ban following the purported shabby treatment Gonzales received when he appeared before the Senate blue ribbon committee on Sept. 21.

The panel is looking into a deal Gonzales signed with a US lobby firm to seek funding for Ms Arroyo's project to amend the Philippine Constitution. Critics said the arrangement invited foreign interference in Philippine affairs.

Marinduque sues big Canadian mining . . .

From page A1

Scott and Patrick Byrne, the Las Vegas lawyer who filed the case, called Nevada state courts an appropriate venue to seek damages and restitution because Placer Dome operated three gold mines in northern Nevada. The lawsuit does not specify a dollar amount.

Lawyers for Marinduque said they didn't believe they could get a fair hearing in Canada and the lawsuit couldn't be filed in the Philippines because Placer Dome no longer did business there.

"They are generally amenable to sue here in Nevada," Scott said.

The Marinduque mine, operated by Placer Dome partner Marcopper Mining Corp. of the Philippines, was closed by the Philippine government after the mining dam failed in 1996.

Placer Dome cut ties to the Philippines the following year after 33 years of mining on the island. The cleanup was left to Philippine subsidiaries that Reyes and Scott said did a poor job protecting residents from the ill effects of tainted air, land and water.

Pleas ignored

"They have disappeared. They have ignored our plea," Reyes said of Placer Dome, describing what she called "unspeakable poverty and devastation" on an island that she said used to be a peaceful tropical paradise where people still lived in bamboo and palm-thatched huts.

She said 217,000 people lived in the province. Most live on Marinduque, an island of about 1,536 sq km—slightly smaller than the Hawaiian island of Maui.

The lawsuit alleges that forests, river basins and coral reefs have been smothered by hundreds of millions of tons of pulverized mining waste rock and toxic tailings laden with arsenic, cadmium, lead, manganese, nickel and sulfate.

Citing a Placer Dome report in March 2005, Stewart pointed out that the Canadian mining company had only a 40-percent interest in Marcopper and was thus spared by Philippine law from the full responsibilities of a majority shareholder.

The report said no one died due to flooding, and that company subsidiaries voluntarily contained the damage and compensated affected people. They also built roads, clinics and shelters, paid for an electricity system on the island, dredged the river affected by the spill and monitored groundwater for contamination.

No detectable acute health effects had been traced to the presence of tailings in the river, the Placer Dome report said.

The lawsuit filed against Placer Dome is similar to the troubles confronting another multinational mining company. Newmont Mining Corp. faces criminal charges in Indonesia where American Richard Ness, who directs the Denver-based company's local subsidiary, faces up to 10 years in prison and a fine of $68,000 if convicted of dumping mercury and arsenic-laced pollutants into an Indonesian bay.

Rehabilitation

Notwithstanding the filing of the lawsuit against Placer Dome, the Philippine Department of Environment and Natural Resources is planning to undertake in the first quarter of next year the rehabilitation of the San Antonio mine that had been abandoned by Marcopper.

MARINDUQUE Gov. Carmencita Reyes holds a press conference in Las Vegas, Nevada, after filing a lawsuit accusing a Canadian mining giant of damaging her province's environment and the health of its residents over copper wastes spillage in the Boac River. AP

This month, the DENR and Marcopper are scheduled to identify structures in the San Antonio mine site that badly need repairs.

Environment Undersecretary Rado Dimalibot, who oversees the DENR's initiatives for responsible mining, said the mine site needed to be surveyed after Marcopper raised some contentious points in a US Geological Society (USGS) report, which was commissioned by the Philippine government last year.

The rehabilitation of Marcopper's mine will be based on the USGS study, titled "Marinduque Environmental and Health Study."

The San Antonio mine was jointly operated by Marcopper and Placer Dome from 1975 to 1996. Mining operations stopped after a dam holding 4 million cubic meters of mine tailings broke in March 1996.

An estimated 1.6 million cubic meters of mine tailings spilled into the Boac and Makulapnit Rivers. About 295,000 cubic meters of toxic tailings remain in the two rivers, according to the DENR.

"The Marinduque mining project cannot start until after the remediation, which could take about two years," Dimalibot told the INQUIRER yesterday.

Priority mine site

The San Antonio mine, which has a potential revenue of P300 million based on a required investment of P100 million, is one of the Philippine government's 23 priority mining sites.

Aside from Marcopper itself, at least four firms have expressed interest in operating the San Antonio mine. But the DENR has put off awarding rights to operate the mine to any of the firms until after Marcopper has completed a cleanup of the damaged areas.

"This is the responsibility of Marcopper, and they should be the one to do the remediation," Dimalibot said.

The government has threatened to take over the San Antonio copper project if Marcopper doesn't finish the cleanup job.

No money for cleanup

Placer Dome has insisted that it had left $13 million with Marcopper for the cleanup of the Boac River, but Marcopper maintains it has no money for the river's rehabilitation.

While Marcopper and Placer Dome have acknowledged responsibility for the mine spill in the Boac River, the mining partners have refused to take responsibility for a similar mine spill in the Mogpog River in 1993 and the dumping of toxic tailings into Calancan Bay, a major source of livelihood for the fishing communities in Marinduque, since 1975. *With reports from AP and Blanche S. Rivera*

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Boncodin to testify in Senate probe

INCUMBENT AND FORMER officials of the Department of Agriculture have told the Senate committee on agriculture they could not appear in its hearing today on the alleged use of P728 million worth of fertilizer funds to support Ms Arroyo's election campaign last year.

Sen. Ramon Magsaysay Jr., chair of the committee, decided to push through with the hearing which had been postponed thrice after Malacañang requested for more time.

"The truth about this particular issue must be resolved considering that the agriculture sector, particularly our farmers are sweating it out to make both ends meet and are in dire need of government support," Magsaysay said.

Former Budget Secretary Emilia Boncodin, one of the "Hyatt 10" members who resigned from the Cabinet and called for the President's resignation, has confirmed her attendance. It would be Boncodin's first public appearance since she joined the Hyatt 10 on July 8.

Las Piñas City Rep. Cynthia Villar, one of the lawmakers who said their districts were allotted fertilizer funds ranging from P3 million to P5 million but which they did not see, declined to attend the hearing. As a lawmaker, she said it would be "awkward" for her to testify in the Senate.

Marcos wealth . . .

From page A1

"Practically everyone in the streets says these are beautiful things and says why do they want to take them away for money," the widow of the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos told the London-based Sky News television network.

Beauty before money

"Filipinos will take beauty before money," she said. "We are not a materialistic people."

Imelda said in an interview released yesterday that her wealth was honestly earned and the government had no right to sell her jewelry.

"It's not true that this is still stolen money, that it is ill gotten, that it's taken from corruption or taken from the people, which is the most terrible thing, and it is not," Marcos said in the interview to be broadcast on the Sky News channel.

Imelda last month filed a petition with a Manila court asking for a temporary restraining order on government plans to auction the jewelry which was seized when her husband was overthrown in 1986.

The government says the jewels, including a 37.5-carat diamond, were bought with money embezzled from the national treasury. *AFP*

PCGG to probe . . .

From page A1

la Times reporter on Tuesday that "the more beautiful expensive ones had already been grabbed by persons you often see in newspapers." He said he was present during the incident on Feb. 28, 1986 in the residence of Angelita Reyes, daughter of a business tycoon, in Dasmariñas Village, Makati City.

This happened three days after the dictator Ferdinand Marcos fled following the People Power revolution that installed Corazon Aquino, who had retained Enrile as defense minister.

Also reported present in the Reyes residence were former Sen. Jovito Salonga and Pedro Yap and Ramon Diaz, who later were named to the Presidential Commission on Good Government. Aquino formed the PCGG to recover the alleged ill-gotten wealth of the Marcoses and their cronies.

Ricardo Abcede, current PCGG commissioner, yesterday asked in an interview with reporters why Enrile was raising the issue now—nearly 20 years after the supposed disappearance of the Marcos jewels.

"If this really happened, they should have done something about it. He was head of the national defense," Abcede said.

"You mean he allowed this to happen in front of his eyes? You mean the PCGG commissioners allowed this to happen in front of their eyes?" asked Abcede.

If that were the case, Abcede said, Reyes, Enrile, Salonga and the other PCGG officials, should be charged with being conspirators or accessories to stealing. "You can be an accessory because right there and then you can make a citizens arrest. You can prevent the crime."

Asked for comment, Salonga, former PCGG chair, referred the INQUIRER to his book, "Presidential Plunder." Here, he mentions Reyes and former Tarlac Gov. Margarita "Tingting" Cojuangco as those who could probably know about the issue.

Salonga's account

"What happened inside the Palace between Feb. 28 up to the turnover to us of the documents and articles in the afternoon of March 1 is beyond the personal knowledge of then Commissioner Yap and myself, but probably within the personal knowledge of the member of this group," Salonga says in the book.

Salonga says that on Feb. 28, 1986, Reyes and her group, which included Tingting Cojuangco, sister-in-law of Aquino, went to the Palace where they found documents and "articles."

The following day, Salonga says, then Finance Minister Jaime Ongpin asked him, Yap, Enrile and then Armed Forces Chief of Staff Fidel Ramos to proceed to the Reyes residence.

Salonga says Reyes and her group wanted to turn over the documents and articles to the PCGG and the other government officials who went to the house.

The documents, Salonga says, included a Swiss bank contract and trust instruments covering Marcos investments. The articles apparently included the jewelry being mentioned by Enrile.

"How about the documents and articles in Malacañang before the turnover to us on March 1? In giving a partial answer several points must be considered. First, when the Marcoses and their retinue fled the Palace on the evening of Feb. 25, 1986, they brought with them to Hawaii documents and articles of value," Salonga says.

"Second, (the Marcoses) fled in a hurry and left many documents and articles behind. A mob surged into the Palace shortly after their departure and took some papers and articles," he adds.

"Third, Dr. Angelita Reyes told us that she, along with some people identified with Ms Tingting Cojuangco, went to the Palace on the morning of Feb. 28. What happened inside the Palace between Feb. 28 up to the turnover to us of the documents and articles in the afternoon of March 1 is beyond the personal knowledge of then Commissioner Yap and myself, but probably within the personal knowledge of this group," Salonga says in his book.

PCGG to call for probe

Abcede also said that "for whatever it's worth," the PCGG would request the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) or any other concerned government agency to look into the issue. But Abcede said an investigation now might be difficult. After 20 years, he said it would be "hard to trace what really happened."

Nonetheless, Abcede still called Enrile's claims a "fairy tale" without conclusive evidence. "I do not want to be chasing rainbows here. I have more important things to do."

Abcede theorized that Enrile's claim could be part of a grand scheme to derail the auction of the jewels.

"This will not affect the auction and I think this will raise the jewelry's value because this would add to the history of the jewels," he said. Enrile should conduct a Senate inquiry into the issue, he said.

The PCGG expects to collect around $150 million from the sale of the jewelry. Sotheby's, Christie's and Bonhams are bidding for the right to auction off the collection.

Enrile yesterday said the PCGG should have investigated the pilferage in 1986, recalling the looting in Malacañang following Marcos' ouster.

'It's evident there was no case filed. And the only possible explanation for that is the fact that the people who were concerned were friends of the administration, and they did not want them to go to jail," Enrile said.

US likes Ifugao rice

From page A1

for organic rice," she said.

The existence of the old rice varieties grown the way the ancient Ifugaos and Kalingas produced their staple has stirred interest abroad, according to Garcia.

Tinawon and unoy rice are harvested in association with ritual community cycles.

Tinawon, in particular, is not cost effective, according to the Philippine Rice Research Institute (PhilRice), because it is planted once a year to complement the religious cycle of the Ifugaos.

Larry Lopez, a Philippine Information Agency official in Kalinga, said the "unoy" varieties were cultivated in the Nambucayan and Magnao districts of upper Tabuk town.

He said Garcia delivered samples of the "inowoyan" and "mimis" varieties of unoy rice to Montana in September, which passed food quality examinations.

Farmers produce 65.62 cavans of inowoyan per 1.05 hectares, and 2,099 tons of mimis from 70.8 hectares, according to Lopez.

Unoy sells for P50 a kg at the Baguio market because it is considered a delicacy in the city.

Garcia said Revitalized Indigenous Rice Entrepreneurs Inc. was conceived by a former US Peace Corps volunteer, who served in Kalinga 27 years ago.

"[The Peace Corps member] spent a long time in [Kalinga] and has been looking for a way to help ease the poverty there," Garcia said.

"There are no questions about how organic the indigenous rice of the Cordillera really is. They plant without using modern fertilizers," she said.

It is still not clear how the demand for rice indigenous to Ifugao and Kalinga in the United States will affect the government's campaign to replace traditional rice with hybrid rice varieties.

Kalinga tested a hybrid rice, designed by Chinese scientist Yuen Long Ping, producing 7.2 tons per hectare between 2002 and 2003. The output topped those of other farm testing areas in the country.

Garcia said the company decided to sell tinawon from Ifugao's rice terraces to help local governments guarantee farmers a market for their product as they introduced indigenous measures to stabilize the centuries-old terraces.

World Heritage Site

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (Unesco) has enshrined the Ifugao terraces as one of the World Heritage Sites. President Macapagal-Arroyo, however, has given local governments in the province the burden of restoring the terraces to comply with the requirements of Unesco.

As early as 2002, the Department of Science and Technology has been designing packaging materials for Ifugao rice to encourage its export.

EV ESPIRITU/PDI NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU

IT'S A LONG WAY from the rice terraces of Ifugao and the Mountain Province to the United States. Among the country's poorest people live on the produce of the terraces cultivated nearly 2,000 years ago.

Minister posts bail for Villanueva, but . . .

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

HE SHOWED UP ALONE AT THE MANDALUYong City Regional Trial Court yesterday, hoping to save Bro. Eddie Villanueva from being jailed.

Wearing a yellow polo barong, he introduced himself as Harold Ledda, a pastor of a group he called Christian Missionary Alliance.

He showed up at the RTC Branch 212 shortly after lunch yesterday, while Villanueva was holding a press conference in a Mandaluyong City restaurant to challenge the government to arrest him.

Ledda told court employees he wanted to pay the P40,000 bail for Villanueva. "I am acting on my own. Nobody instructed me to go here," he said.

Asked where the money would come from, he said it would be from his own pocket.

Villanueva, the subject of an arrest warrant for alleged estafa, is refusing to post bail.

Without elaborating, Ledda said he was into trading. He said he used to buy airtime on Zoe TV Channel 11, which Villanueva owns.

"(Villanueva) did not realize how he helped me. I want to help him this time," he said.

Ledda asked the court employees if he could pay the bail so Villanueva would no longer be arrested.

But court clerk Rosario Santos told him that while they could prepare the initial documents, Villanueva would have to be brought to the court for him to personally affix his thumb marks to the documents.

Ledda, referring to newspaper reports, said Villanueva would not want to post bail. *With a report from Christian Esguerra*

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Thursday, October 6, 2005
27th Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: Mal 3:13-20
Gospel: Luke 11:5-13

Jesus said to his disciples, "Suppose one of you has a friend and goes to his house in the middle of the night and says: 'Friend, lend me three loaves, for a friend of mine who is traveling has just arrived and I have nothing to offer him.' Maybe your friend will answer from inside: 'Don't bother me now; the door is locked and my children and I are in bed, so I can't get up and give you anything.' But I tell you, even though he will not get up and attend to you because you are a friend, yet he will get up because you are a bother to him, and he will give you all you need.

"And so I say to you, 'Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and it will be opened to you. For the one who asks receives, and the one who searches finds, and to him who knocks the door will be opened.

"If your child asks for a fish, will you give a snake instead? And if your child asks for an egg, will you give a scorpion? Even you evil people know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more then will the Father in heaven give holy spirit to those who ask him!"

Commentary

There is more on prayer. A friend comes to us in the middle of the night, in need of bread for visitors to his own house and knocks and knocks. Eventually we get up, give him what we have because he is a friend in need and he passes it on in hospitality (one of the most important demands of Jewish society). Our God is like that—gives us what we need to pass onto others. And he gives better and truer than we do—who gives to our children and those we love what they need. But it is what is needed, not what is simply wanted! And what is most needed is the Spirit. We must ask for the Spirit of God for others and for otherselves for that is the deepest gift that will transform all our lives and world.

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Terror bill sparks fears

From page A1

- The drafting of an order by the Department of Justice for possible government takeover of key companies.
- The issuance of Executive Order No. 464, which forbids government officials from appearing in congressional inquiries without Ms Arroyo's prior consent.
- The alleged assassination plot against Ms Arroyo and the supposed "harassment" of prominent anti-Arroyo leaders.

"We should look at the complete picture," Suplico said.

Militant party-list Representatives Teodoro Casiño, Liza Maza, Loretta Anne Rosales, Crispin Beltran and Rafael Mariano, as well as law dean Pacifico Agabin, yesterday warned against its enactment.

But Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita came to the bill's defense, saying the government needed a more far-reaching law against terrorists to be more effective in preventing terrorist attacks.

Ermita said the December 2000 bombings would not have occurred had an antiterror law been passed. He said the law would have prevented the perpetrators, who were apprehended in 1998, from leaving their prison cells.

He added that the government needed a wide coverage for the proposed antiterror law to cover all fronts, including terrorists' sources of money, training and mobility.

Ermita also said all the fears of the public on the constitutionality of the antiterror bill would be addressed when it goes to the plenary for debates.

In a phone interview, National Security Adviser Norberto Gonzales warned not only of suicide bombers in Metro Manila but also of suicide terrorists armed with automatic rifles and determined to cause as much damage in crowded places such as malls.

"That is why I'm asking the police to tighten the security in malls and not to look only for bombs," said Gonzales who had earlier warned that two suicide bombers from Indonesia were now in the country.

Worse than US' Patriot Act

But at a forum in the House of Representatives, Agabin, law dean of the Lyceum of the Philippines, said the proposed antiterror law was "constitutionally suspect" because it was "couched in vague and over-broad terms, in violation of substantive due process and of the right to the fair-notice clause of the Constitution."

Agabin said the bill was worse than the United States' Patriot Act—enacted following the 9/11 attacks—because all criminal acts in the Revised Penal Code would fall under it, thus altering the Philippine criminal justice system.

"The proposed bill tries to cast as wide a net as possible, and so it suffers not only from ambiguity but also from overbreadth," he said, stressing that it would give way to a "fishing expedition" of the police.

According to Agabin, the definition of terrorism as proposed in Sec. 3 of the bill "deviates from what is popularly understood to be the common denominator of terrorist acts: the objective is usually political, and there is a retaliatory quality to such activity against targets perceived to belong to a society of oppressors."

De facto martial rule

If the objective, as stated in the bill, is "just the creating or sowing of a state of danger, panic, fear, or chaos ..., then the proposed law will merely be a duplication of existing crimes enumerated in the penal code, with the difference that the penalties have been vastly increased to the maximum," he said.

The bill was passed Tuesday by the House committees on justice and foreign affairs.

Its consolidated version will be debated on the floor starting next week.

House leaders led by Cebu Rep. Antonio Cuenco, chair of the foreign affairs committee, said that the approval of the bill had been long delayed.

He warned that the Philippines should not "wait for bigger terror attacks to convince us of the immediacy and indispensability of the law."

But Bayan Muna's Casiño said that in seeking to control the media coverage of terror groups, institution of warrantless arrests and expansion of the coverage of electronic surveillance, the measure was "a recipe, a combo meal for de facto martial rule."

Gabriela's Maza said massive opposition to the bill would subside if the administration came up with a version solely targeting transnational terrorism.

Even the Muslim bloc allied with the majority in the House vowed to block the bill's passage in the plenary.

Lanao del Sur Rep. Benasing Macarambon Jr. pointed out that the definition of terrorism in the bill actually "describe[d] Muslims."

Thus, it is worse than the antisubversion law of the Marcos regime, Macarambon said, adding:

"The solution to terrorism is not military in nature but socio-economic because poverty is the real cause of terrorism.

"I believe even freedom is entitled to self-defense."

Alluding to Representatives Casiño, Maza and Rosales, who attended the forum, Macarambon said: "This is a warning to those who oppose the government, like my friends here." *With a report from Edson C. Tandoc Jr.*

Cops beat up protesters; 15 arrested

From page A1

Pol Bangay and Manny Quiatzon of Partido ng Manggagawa; Leody de Guzman, Ericson Dizon and Nenita Cruz of Buklurang Manggagawa ng Pilipinas; Milet Morante, DJ Anier, Magda Sellote, Lilia de la Cruz, Joseph de la Cruz and Margarita Escober of Kilusan para sa Pambansang Demokrasya; Leonardo de los Reyes of Akbayan Youth, and Pedrito Fadrigon of Kongreso ng Pagkakaisa ng Maralitang Lungsod.

They will be charged with obstruction, according to Supt. Arturo Paglinawan, head of the MPD's General Assignments Section.

Those arrested were taken to the National Capital Region Police Office headquarters in Bicutan, Taguig, for investigation and medical examination.

Insp. Diosdado Lagahino said that while persons arrested for illegal assembly were usually brought to the MPD headquarters for questioning, "we have been having problems with angry activists crowding our office to protest the arrest of their companions."

On Tuesday, eight activists were arrested on Lepanto Street near the University of the East even before their planned rally could start.

Brass knuckles

Rep. Renato Magtubo of Partido ng Manggagawa said the demonstrators assembled on Morayta at around 10:15 a.m. yesterday but were blocked by police on Lepanto as they headed to Mendiola.

Supt. Romulo Sapitula said his men were forced to arrest the demonstrators because the latter defied the order for them to disperse within 15 minutes and even threw stones at the law enforcers.

Francisco Nemenzo, former president of the University of the Philippines, said in a phone interview that he saw one policeman wearing brass knuckles.

"The media would not see the knuckles because the policeman hid them behind his shield," Nemenzo said.

But Sapitula denied this, saying his men carried only shields.

"They are not even allowed to bring sticks," he said, and claimed that 10 of his men were injured by the demonstrators.

In a statement, Sanlakas' Fortaleza said demonstrating members of the Partido ng Manggagawa, Kilusan para sa Pambansang Demokrasya and Akbayan were violently dispersed and arrested on Sept. 21, 26 and 29.

Plaza Miranda

"[Their] arrest and violent dispersal ... and the subsequent filing of charges of illegal assembly against them confirm the reality that the Arroyo administration is already implementing a policy which is outside of the law and which is a clear violation of existing laws," he said.

The United Opposition (UNO) chaired by Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay said its plan to take its protest actions outside the city was intended to show extensive antiadministration sentiment and was not a concession to fears that demonstrations in the financial district were disrupting business.

Tomorrow, UNO will again spearhead a rally against the President at Plaza Miranda in Manila, where the administration's "no permit, no rally" policy has been most effectively implemented.

"Why not there? Plaza Miranda is one of those areas associated with protest actions," said Binay's spokesperson Lito Anzures.

It will be the first time the UNO will hold an anti-Arroyo protest action since the CPR policy was used in dealing with mass actions.

Binay's territory had been the main staging area of anti-Arroyo rallies since July. It has hosted at least four mass actions to demand Ms Arroyo's ouster for allegedly rigging the May 2004 presidential election.

Business jitters

In laying down its CPR policy, Malacañang claimed that protest actions had proven harmful to national health, particularly to business in Makati, home to multinational corporations, banks and financial institutions, and the Philippine Stock Exchange.

Anzures said the decision to hold the Friday rally elsewhere had nothing to do with business jitters. But "to be honest about it," he said, the Friday schedule was decided on after the CPR policy was announced.

"We assure you that additional rallies will be held in Makati in the coming days," he said in a phone interview.

An idea pitched by UNO's Manila chapter, the Plaza Miranda rally was finalized roughly a week ago, Anzures said.

He said it was Manila Vice Mayor Danilo Lacuna, a longtime oppositionist, who suggested that the next anti-Arroyo rally be held in Manila, the turf of proadministration Manila Mayor Lito Atienza.

Anzures said the UNO had secured a permit to hold the rally.

"It sends the message that Makati is not [Ms Arroyo's] lone adversary. There have been rallies in other cities all over the country," he said.

Not on Mendiola

Atienza is standing pat on his decision not to allow mass actions to be held on Mendiola, scene of the historic First Quarter Storm that presaged Ferdinand Marcos' imposition of martial law.

"[The Manila government] will not allow any rally to be held on Mendiola precisely because we don't want any untoward incident to happen where we will all be very sorry," Atienza said, adding:

"We are responsible for whatever happens in Manila. That's why we're very careful in all of the steps that we are taking."

But the mayor was quick to explain that the city government did not intend to curtail the rights of demonstrators. He said all it was requiring was proper coordination.

He also said the city government had become strict in issuing rally permits only because it wanted to protect those asserting their right to freedom of expression, as well as those needing to go about their daily routine.

Atienza called on militant groups to use the University Belt area, particularly the schools' auditoriums and compounds.

"They can ask permission from school authorities. If they want to communicate with the youth, the universities are open, I'm sure," he said.

He also said protest rallies could be held in Manila's freedom parks, including Liwasang Bonifacio, Luneta and Plaza Miranda.

Learning from history

According to Atienza, the city government cannot allow the use of Mendiola as a rally venue because "these are not normal times."

He called attention to the alert levels raised against terrorism in Southeast Asia in the wake of the second Bali bombing.

"I'm just doing my job according to what I have learned from history," the mayor said.

He cited the 1971 Plaza Miranda bombing where dozens were killed and wounded when a grenade exploded in the middle of a Liberal Party meeting, and the Mendiola massacre where at least 13 farmers were shot dead by government troops during a violent dispersal of a rally 18 years ago.

"I believe I survived the Plaza Miranda bombing precisely so that I may make wise decisions these days. I will never forget that and I don't want that to happen again," he said.

Nevertheless, militant groups Bagong Alyansang Makabayan and Gloria Step Down Movement are preparing to hold a rally on Mendiola today.

The groups' leaders, Renato Reyes and Fr. Joe Dizon, applied for a permit last week but Atienza said the city government had to refuse.

"As far as I'm concerned, they have no permit. I have stated the reasons why, and I hope everybody understands," Atienza said.

CHR to probe violations by cops in dispersal operations

By Norman Bordadora

THE COMMISSION ON HUMAN Rights has formed teams to look out for rights violations and study the implementation of the calibrated preemptive response (CPR) policy when the Bagong Alyansang Makabayan and its allied groups march on Malacañang this afternoon without a rally permit from Manila's City Hall.

CHR Chair Purificacion Quisumbing said on Tuesday that under Batas Pambansa 880, or the Public Assembly Act, the permit for the Bayan march and demonstration was deemed granted following City Hall's failure to act on the group's application filed as early as Wednesday last week.

"We have organized teams that will monitor, not join, the rally," CHR public information officer Ed Diansuy told the INQUIRER yesterday. "We will observe how the police respond to the demonstrators. Their CPR policy is still very vague."

Diansuy said Quisumbing also dispatched a team to the Metro Manila police headquarters in Taguig to look into the violent dispersal and arrest of protesters yesterday in Manila. *(See story on Page A1.)*

He also said the commission would soon invite representatives of Malacañang, the National Police Commission and the Philippine National Police to a public forum, where the CPR could be defined and scrutinized.

In the wake of Quisumbing's suggestion that demonstrators bring a copy of BP 880 to show anti-riot police that they have the right to rally even without a permit from City Hall, protest leaders said they would have several lawyers as well to tell police that the law was on the demonstrators' side.

"The peaceful Oct. 6 rally will push through," said Fr. Joe Dizon. "There is no legal basis for the police to block and arrest protesters. We warn the police and the administration against repeating the [earlier] violent incidents."

Added Dizon: "They require us to secure a permit, yet no one in City Hall would issue a permit. That is clearly a curtailment of our civil liberties. There is no clearer proof that this regime continues to violate our rights."

Bayan secretary general Renato Reyes Jr. said lawyers from the Integrated Bar of the Philippines and the Counsels for the Defense of Liberties were expected to provide legal aid to the demonstrators.

"The repeated violent dispersal of peaceful mass actions is alarming. There is now a clear policy of intolerance and heightened repression. We Filipinos have a responsibility to question and challenge this policy in the courts and in the streets," Reyes said.

Support pours in for Brother Eddie awaiting arrest

From page A1

Chavez asked the public to each contribute P1 to help raise the P40,000 bail set by the Mandaluyong Regional Trial Court, which issued the arrest warrant.

But the evangelist didn't seem interested. "My principle dictates that I cannot really honor this railroaded issuance of warrant of arrest," he said.

Challenge

He instead dared law enforcement agencies to arrest him. "I believe they are not serious in implementing or executing the warrant of arrest because probably their conscience cannot accept it," he said.

The warrant was ready as early as April 5. But Villanueva said it was only now that it was being served after he declined a series of invitations to join the camp of Ms Arroyo, who is being pressed by many sectors to step down for allegedly stealing the presidential election in 2004 when Villanueva also was a presidential bet.

As of 4:30 p.m. yesterday, no law enforcer was at the doorstep of Legend. Villanueva told the INQUIRER he received information that a composite team was in the vicinity, studying ways to get him out of the hotel.

Reunion of GMA's foes

Fr. Robert Reyes said the arrest order was a "symptom of a leader who has started panicking and arresting people of goodwill who are just doing something good for the country."

The long wait for arresting officers became a reunion of sorts for Ms Arroyo's foes.

Among the first to arrive were lawyer Roy Señeres, former chair of the National Labor Relations Commission, director Carlito Siguon-Reyna, Jose "Linggoy" Alcuaz and actor Rez Cortez.

Some proimpeachment members of the House of Representatives, including Rep. Alan Peter Cayetano, who were honored by JIL at a huge prayer rally on Sunday, also turned up.

Bishop Leo Alconga, vice chair of the Philippines for Jesus Movement, said his group would hold prayer vigils in case Villanueva was arrested.

"We will enjoin our people to pray for our country, for our leaders, and for those who are in government, to be guided properly by the Lord," he told the INQUIRER.

Petition for review

Villanueva said he also got messages of sympathy from the 5-million-strong JIL chapters in 35 countries. "Even other Christian groups have already signified their all-out, prayerful support for the cause that we are fighting for."

While Villanueva said he was ready to be arrested, his lawyer sought the intervention of the Department of Justice (DOJ) to stop his arrest.

Lawyer Lorna Kapunan yesterday asked Gonzalez to give her client until Oct. 12 to file a petition for review of Villanueva's case.

"If they file a petition for review, we will give them due course," Gonzalez told reporters.

He said he was happy that Villanueva had decided to follow the legal process.

The filing of the petition, the justice secretary said, would make Villanueva eligible to file "a motion to suspend the issuance of warrant" in the Mandaluyong Regional Trial Court Branch No. 212.

He said the motion to suspend the arrest warrant was good for 60 to 90 days.

Gonzalez said it was Villanueva's right to file the petition in the Department of Justice because he had failed to file one with the city prosecutor in Mandaluyong.

Had Villanueva done so at the local level and his petition was found meritorious, he would have stopped the issuance of the arrest warrant, Gonzalez said.

Held in abeyance

Asked whether the arrest of Villanueva had been put off, Gonzalez said it would be held in abeyance because the evangelist was going to file a motion to suspend the information with the court.

"That is now a matter for the court. We will still grant petition for review, the question of warrant is still up to the court," Gonzalez said.

Gonzalez said the case of Villanueva would now rest largely with the DOJ.

Should the court refuse to grant the suspension of the warrant, the justice secretary said the DOJ could still cause the dismissal of the case.

"Prosecution is the exclusive power of prosecutors and they are under me. As justice secretary I can order the (prosecutor) to file it or not," Gonzlez said.

But will Villanueva no longer be arrested by law enforcers other than the NBI? Gonzalez said he may still be arrested anytime.

"The warrant of the arrest has been issued and if the court will not recall it, then it can be served anytime. They should file it immediately," he said, referring to the petition for review and the subsequent motion suspend the issuance of the warrant.

In a radio interview, Gonzalez also said the Mandaluyong police should have the first crack at arresting Villanueva.

Gonzalez said the Department of Justice was merely asked by the court to implement the warrant. "I just ordered the NBI to implement it, but it all depends on the station commander of Mandaluyong," he said.

Palace nothing to do with it

Malacañang yesterday reiterated it had nothing to do with the order to arrest Villanueva despite Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita's earlier warning that authorities would arrest personalities, who have arrest warrants and are involved in destabilization moves against the Arroyo administration.

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said that the arrest order came from a regional trial court or "an independent agency over which we don't have any control."

Ermita said he announced last month the government's "calibrated preempted response" policy because of the protest rallies being staged against the government.

When he made the statement, Ermita said he "had no idea that there was a pending warrant of arrest against Bro. Eddie."

Warning

He said that what he had said was just a warning. "We know who they are. They're hiding and not necessarily in the category of Bro. Eddie."

Aside from the DOJ, the trial court judge also furnished copies of the arrest order to the NBI and the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group of the police, Ermita quoted the justice secretary as telling him. *With a report from Christine O. Avendaño*

Cop, 2 pirates slain off Tawi-Tawi

A POLICEMAN AND two suspected pirates were killed and eight people were wounded in a clash at sea off Tawi-Tawi, a police report said yesterday.

The police officer was killed while three other policemen and three members of the civilian security force of Languyan town, were wounded Monday when they tried to intercept a group of suspected pirates who had stolen a boat engine.

A report by the regional police said the civilian security men were in a speedboat when they came under fire from the suspected pirates as they approached, triggering a 10-minute gunfight. Two of the suspected pirates were killed and two others injured.

The area, close to the border with Malaysia, is notorious for Muslim rebels and pirates.

The Philippines and Malaysia have recently intensified naval patrols along their borders to deter Muslim guerrillas and pirates from attacking ships. *AP*

IMPORTANT

Tomorrow, October 7, will be FIRST FRIDAY. Fr. Catalino Arevalo, S.J. will celebrate mass at the 6:00 PM at the Santuario de San Antonio, Forbes Park and he will talk about the 150 Years Anniversary of the Devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

Fr. Gerard Deveza, OFM, healing priest, will say mass at the Parish Center at 3:00 PM.

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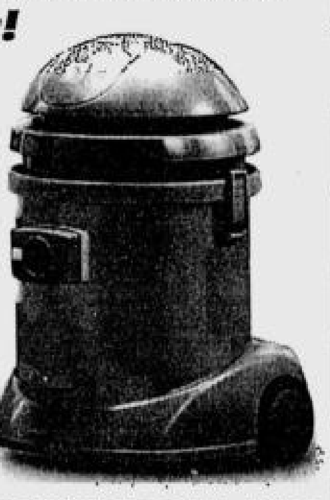

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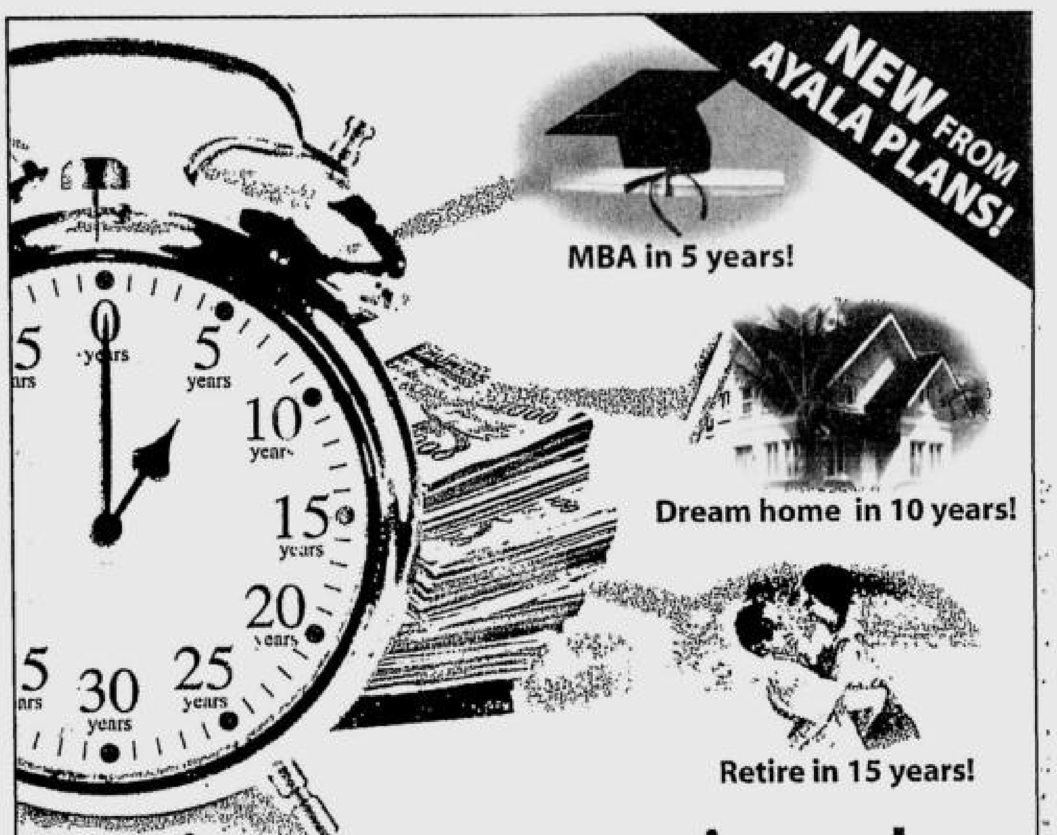

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TYPE	DESCRIPTION	
1	SEPARATE HARD LUMPS, LIKE NUTS	CONSTIPATED
2	SAUSAGE LIKE BUT LUMPY	↓
3	LIKE A SAUSAGE BUT WITH CRACKS IN THE SURFACE	↓
4	LIKE A SAUSAGE OR SNAKE SMOOTH AND SOFT	✓
5	SOFT BLOBS WITH CLEAR CUT EDGES	↑
6	FLUFFY PIECES WITH RAGGED EDGES, A MUSHY TOOL	↑
7	WATERY, NO SOLID PIECES	DIARRHEA

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UN: 130M youths illiterate, 88M jobless

UNITED NATIONS—YOUNG PEOPLE TODAY ARE BETTER educated than any previous generation, but 130 million youths are still illiterate, more than half a billion live on less than $2 a day, and a record 88 million are unemployed, according to a UN report.

The UN World Youth Report 2005 provides a snapshot of the 1.2 billion young people aged 15 to 24 who are increasingly seeking the bright lights of cities, engaging in international activities, and becoming more influenced by the global media than by their own families and communities.

"While there is still enormous diversity among young people worldwide, the processes of urbanization and globalization and rapid advances in information and communications technology have arguably contributed to the emergence of a new global media-driven youth culture," UN undersecretary general for Economic and Social Affairs Jose Antonio Ocampo said in a foreword to the report, which was released Tuesday.

But the 192-page report highlights the stark differences in the lives and opportunities of young people in poor African and Asian nations and richer Western countries.

Almost half of the world's 15- to 24-year-olds were living on less than $2 a day, and over 200 million, about 18 percent, were trying to survive on less than $1 a day in 2002—the vast majority in south Asia, east Asia and the Pacific, and sub-Saharan Africa, the report said.

While malnutrition strikes millions, the main killer of 15- to 24-year-olds is AIDS.

Ten million young people—mostly in Africa and Asia—are currently living with HIV or AIDS, and "the epidemic has had a devastating impact on the sexual and reproductive health of young people, as they are particularly vulnerable to infection," the report said.

It also found that globally, young people are reaching adolescence earlier, marrying later, and increasingly engaging in premarital sex although early pregnancy has declined in many countries.

The health of young people is also being affected by the "unprecedented increase in the use of synthetic drugs worldwide, mostly in recreational settings," the report said.

In a new trend, it said, "the demand for illicit substances among youth in developing countries has risen to levels typically found in industrialized countries." The highest arrest rates are also found among 15- to 24-year-olds, and disproportionate numbers of young people are affected by the increase in violent conflicts, both as perpetrators and victims, it said.

The report said the statistics and trends point to one key message—investments in young people need to be increased to implement the 1995 World Program of Action for Youth and to meet the UN Millennium Development Goals. *AP*

Ramadan starts, Asia fears violence

ISLAMABAD—HUNDREDS OF MILLIONS OF Muslims across Asia mark the first day of Ramadan this week, a month of fasting and spiritual purity but also of heightened security and fears of terror attacks.

Devoutly Islamic Afghanistan declared the start of Ramadan on Tuesday after religious scholars sighted the first sliver of the new moon, along with the Muslim minority in the predominantly Roman Catholic Philippines.

Indonesia, the world's most populous Muslim nation, starts the holy month Wednesday along with Malaysia and Muslims in Thailand, and Bangladesh and Indian Muslims were likely to follow suit.

Pakistan is set to usher in Ramadan on Thursday.

For many Muslims the month will bring a peaceful interlude of religious introspection—yet the continuing threat posed by Islamic extremists casts a pall over parts of South and Southeast Asia.

In Afghanistan, which is slowly clawing its way back from two decades of war, some said the Ramadan ban on eating, smoking and drinking during daylight hours would make little difference to an already destitute population.

"It's full-time Ramadan here," said Kabul businessman Bahram Sarwary, 33. "In Afghanistan most of the people don't have food to eat, there is no drinking water." Taliban militants also continue to wage an insurgency nearly four years after their fundamentalist Islamic regime was ousted, and the US has warned attacks will continue through Ramadan.

However shopkeeper and former lawyer Rohullah Stankzai said the holy month was a time to appreciate the progress the country had made since last year.

"This year it's good because we've the parliament," he said, referring to historic parliamentary elections on which passed off peacefully on Sept. 18. *AFP*

US troops mount biggest attack

BAGHDAD—US MARINES ON TUESDAY launched their biggest offensive this year against al-Qaida guerrillas in western Iraq, the military saying 2,500 troops attacked militants around Haditha.

Two months after the last push against Islamist fighters ended with al-Qaida still in control, to the dismay of locals alarmed by its Taliban-style rule over civilians, Operation River Gate aims to stop the group operating in Haditha and two nearby towns, Haqlaniya and Barwana, a military statement said.

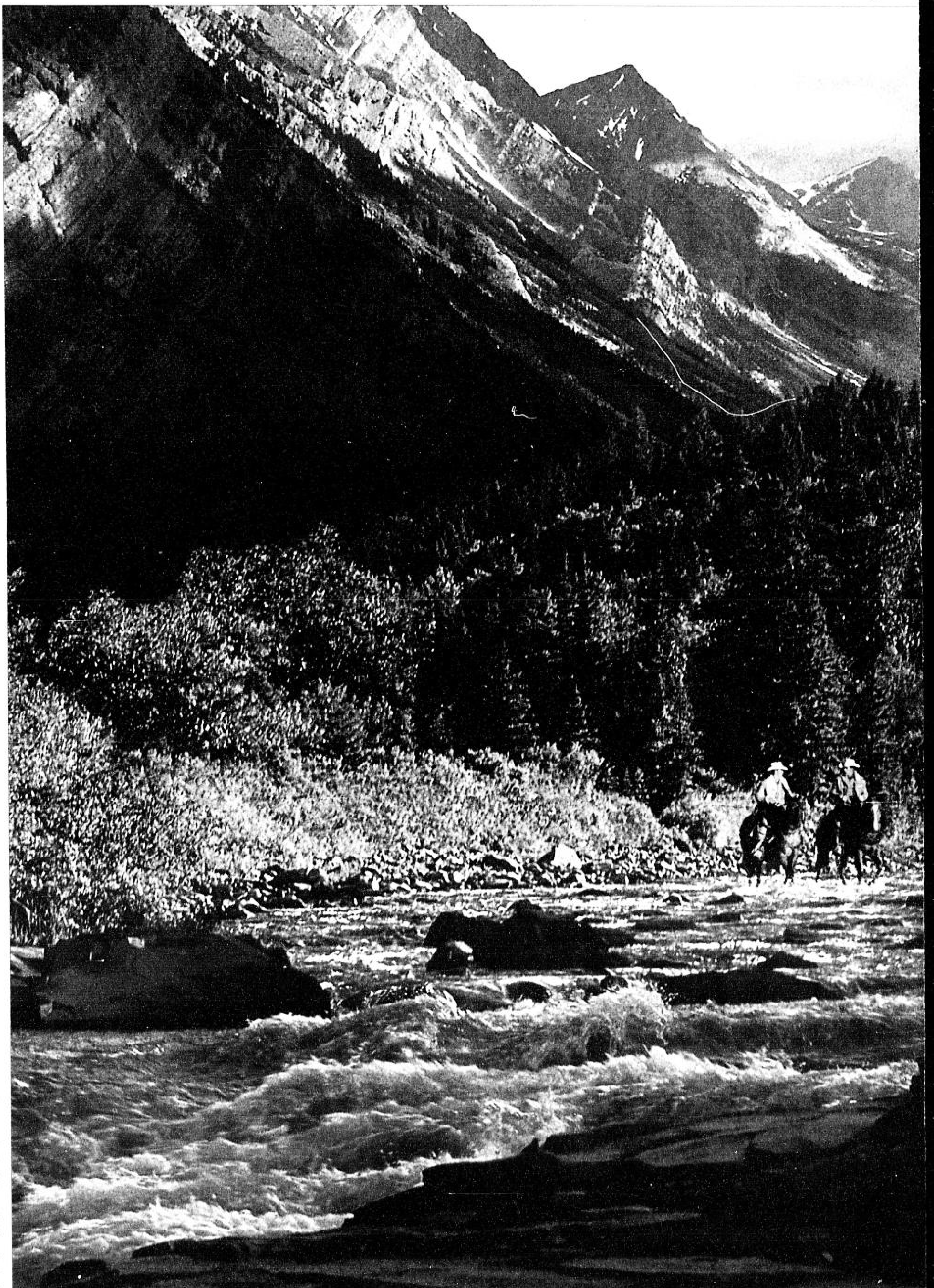
As America threw its military might against Sunni Arab insurgents, the United Nations spoke up for Sunni politicians in urging the Shi'ite-led parliament to alter a ruling that angered the minority by raising the hurdle to their, probably vain, bid to vote down a new constitution at next week's referendum.

Describing it as "moving the goalposts at the end of the game", a UN official told Reuters he expected parliament to meet on Wednesday to reverse a decision that had raised the prospect of a new Sunni boycott of the electoral process.

That would be a major setback to US efforts to draw the once dominant minority into Iraq's post-Saddam Hussein politics.

The sectarian rift is making waves across the Sunni-ruled Arab world; Iraq's Shi'ite interior minister, who dismissed a Saudi minister as a "bedouin riding a camel" this week, returned to the charge on Tuesday, lambasting the birthplace of Islam for treating Shiites as "second-class citizens". The Haditha attack, at the start of the Muslim holy month of Ramadan and 10 days before Iraqis vote in a constitutional referendum, will also free local people from the "terrorists' campaign of murder and intimidation", the US military said.

In the Sunni west of Iraq there is widespread discontent with the US backed, Shi'ite-led government and with the charter that should be ratified in next week's vote. But locals also voice fear and anger at foreign-inspired Islamists who have set up Taliban-style religious rule in Haditha and other towns. *Reuters*



Government Warnin
is dangerous

ARABAO FIGHT

eople watch water buffaloes fight during the Lusheng Festival in Kaili, outhwest China's Guizhou province on Oct. 4. REUTERS

US, N. Korea hold direct talks

WASHINGTON—THE UNITED STATES AND North Korea have begun direct talks for the first time since the Stalinist state's pledge two weeks ago to abandon its nuclear weapons program, a top US envoy said Tuesday.

Christopher Hill, the chief US negotiator to the Beijing-hosted multilateral meeting aimed at dismantling North Korea's nuclear weapons network, said that the bilateral talks were held between his staff and officials from North Korea's UN mission in New York.

The talks came ahead of Hill's much-speculated trip to North Korea to push through with international efforts prodding North Korea to give up its nuclear weapons program in return for security guarantees, energy aid and normalization of relations.

"We have had contacts through the New York channel," Hill, the chief US diplomat for East Asia, said Tuesday, without specifying when or how many round of the talks were held.

This is the first time the United States had announced it had held direct meetings with North Korea since the hardline communist regime agreed to give up its nuclear program at the end of the fourth round of the six-party talks in Beijing on Sept. 19.

The two countries do not have diplomatic relations.

On his trip to Pyongyang, which Hill has hinted since his return from Beijing, the senior diplomat said he had "not finalized my travel plans yet." He had indicated earlier that the trip to the North Korean capital—the first in three years by a top US official—would take place before the fifth round of nuclear talks in early November.

Ahead of the next round of talks, "I would look forward to an intensified diplomatic calendar and hope to have US-DPRK contacts," Hill said.

The last time a US official visited Pyongyang was in October 2002 when Hill's predecessor, then-Assistant Secretary of State James Kelly, accused the North of hiding a program for enriching uranium, triggering the current nuclear crisis.

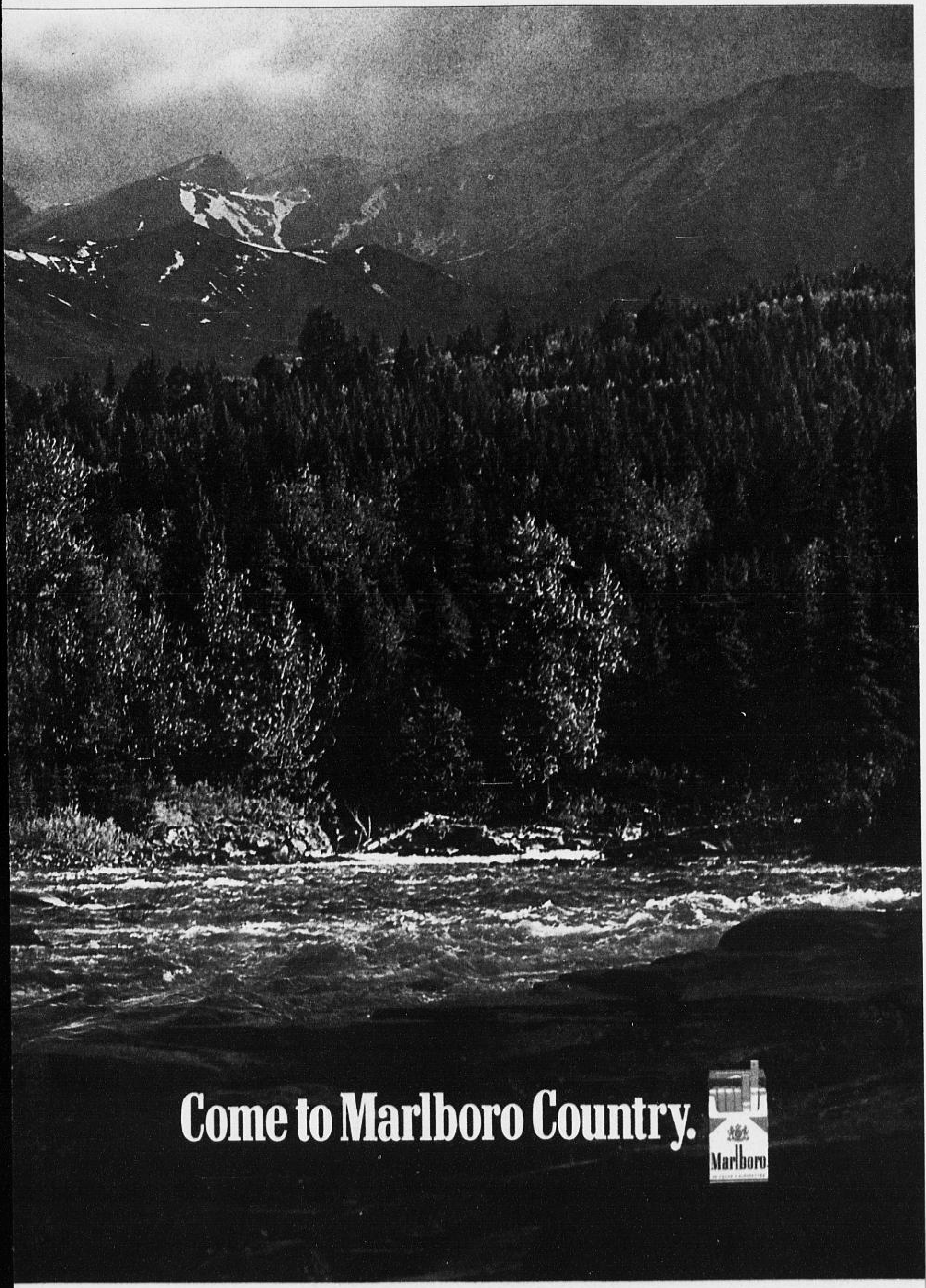
The North responded to the accusation by throwing out weapons inspectors and leaving the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. In February this year North Korea admitted having built nuclear weapons.

Although North Korea agreed to give up its nuclear arms in return for a range of incentives under the six-party accord, it insisted that any dismantlement would only begin after it received light-water reactors from the United States to allow it to generate power under a civilian atomic scheme.

The United States maintains however that any discussions on a peaceful nuclear program for North Korea can take place only after Pyongyang disbands its nuclear weapons arsenal.

As for other benefits, such as normalization of relations with the United States and energy aid, Hill indicated that North Korea would simultaneously receive them while it dismantles its nuclear program.

The "sequencing of various obligations" of North Korea and the other parties under the accord reached two weeks ago would be discussed in Beijing next month, Hill said, adding that the talks were going to be "tough." *AFP*



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2 Americans, German win Nobel Physics

STOCKHOLM—AMERICANS ROY J. GLAUBER and John L. Hall and German Theodor W. Haensch won the 2005 Nobel Physics Prize for groundbreaking work on understanding light, a quest as old as humanity itself, the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences said on Tuesday.

"As long as humans have populated the earth, we have been fascinated by optical phenomena and gradually unravelled the nature of light," the Academy said. "With the aid of light, we can orient ourselves in our daily lives or observe the most distant galaxies of the universe."

Optics has become the tool of the physicist dealing with light and Glauber, an 80-year-old physics professor at Harvard University, took half the Nobel prize for establishing the basis of quantum optics, which explained the fundamental difference between sources of warm light such as light bulbs and cold lasers.

Glauber, who was on the staff of the Manhattan Project which developed the nuclear bomb for the United States during World War II, has been at Harvard since 1976.

Hall and Haensch shared the other half for advancing the development of laser-based precision spectroscopy, a field that opens the way to the next generation of GPS navigation and ultra-precise atomic clocks.

"Lasers with extremely sharp colors can now be constructed," the Academy said of the work of Hall, 71, and Haensch, 63.

Hall works at the University of Colorado and the National Institute of Standards and Technology while Haensch is a physics professor at the Ludwig-Maximilians-Universitaet in Munich, Germany, and runs the Max-Planck-Institut fuer Quantenoptik in Garching.

Their work had made it possible to develop "extremely accurate clocks" and improve satellite-based navigation systems (GPS) for anything from car and boat trips to distant journeys through space, the Academy said. *AFP*

WORLDBRIEFS

N. Orleans layoff

NEW ORLEANS—Mayor Ray Nagin said on Tuesday New Orleans will lay off 40 percent of its workers and warned of more belt-tightening ahead, a bleak reminder of the challenges the city faces as it recovers from two hurricanes. The elimination of 3,000 jobs, which Nagin described as "pretty permanent," is expected to save the hard-hit city $5 million to $8 million a month. New Orleans now pays about $20 million a month in salaries for city workers, Nagin said. With virtually all businesses closed the city's tax revenues have dried up. ***Reuters***

Bush defends Miers

WASHINGTON—President George W. Bush on Tuesday launched a vigorous defense of his Supreme Court nominee, White House lawyer Harriet Miers, as he tried to quell a rebellion from conservative Republicans who questioned whether she will shift the court to the right as they desire. At his first formal news conference in four months, Bush also ruled out handing over internal White House documents on Miers sought by Democrats that might shed light on her legal views. ***Reuters***

Hurricane in Mexico

VERACRUZ, Mexico—Hurricane Stan smacked into Mexico's Gulf coast on Tuesday, forcing evacuations and shutting down oil ports after killing at least 65 people in Central America. The storm came ashore 136 km southeast of the city of Veracruz as a Category One hurricane with winds of nearly 128 kph, although it then weakened to a tropical storm. Gusts blew the roofs off poor residents' flimsy shacks, injuring four people in the state of Veracruz. ***Reuters***

Pakistan death sentence

ISLAMABAD—A Pakistani military court Tuesday sentenced four air force members to death and handed two others life terms for their role in a 2003 attempt to assassinate President Pervez Musharraf, the air force said. They were involved in an al-Qaida-linked plot to kill Musharraf by blowing up a bridge in the garrison city of Rawalpindi, near Islamabad, on Dec. 14, 2003, the Pakistan Air Force (PAF) said in a statement. ***AFP***

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OPINION

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Warnings

EDITORIAL

ALL TOO PREDICTABLY, FOLLOWING THE SUICIDE bombings that killed 22 people in the Indonesian tourist resort island of Bali Saturday, warnings are now being raised about terrorist attacks in the Philippines. Interior Secretary Angelo Reyes has been quoted as saying that terrorism has become the No. 1 threat to national security and that there is "a clear and present danger of terrorist attacks." He cited reports that a number of suspected Indonesian terrorists had been seen in Mindanao, but said these reports have yet to be verified. Indonesian authorities have identified the suspected masterminds in the Bali bombings as Malaysian nationals who belong to the international terrorist organization Jemaah Islamiyah and who had undergone training with Islamic militants in Mindanao.

A recent police intelligence report is even more specific about the threats. It says that the Abu Sayyaf is sending women on bombing missions to Metro Manila and four cities in Mindanao. The report, which was sent out to different police units, says that among the possible targets of the attacks are commercial centers, embassies, seaports, airports and malls. In Zamboanga City, according to the same report, an Abu Sayyaf team led by "Yusop" was already in place waiting for the delivery of explosives and the arrival of 15 other members. The bombing of the cathedral before Fiesta Pilar on Oct. 12 will set off a series of bombings, the report adds.

Since they seem to know well in advance these terrorist plans, the authorities should have no excuse if something like what the report predicts should come to pass in the next few days. In fact, the Abu Sayyaf operatives would be taking unnecessary risks if they went ahead with their plans now that they know the authorities will be keeping close watch over the identified targets.

Or was that the reason for the leak, in the first place—to warn them off and force them to rethink their plans? Such a strategy looks fine, but only in the sense that it might stave off an imminent attack. But if all it accomplishes is to delay the timetable for the attacks, then very little is really achieved. Such detailed advance information about the Abu Sayyaf's terrorist plans would have been much better employed as a guide for laying a trap that would lead to the capture of the plotters and their associates. A successful operation would at the very least have diminished the capability of the Abu Sayyaf to carry out terrorism in the future instead of just forcing it to postpone its plans.

Of course, warnings have the useful purpose of making people more careful, as well as making them more aware of what goes on around them. But after the London and Bali bombings, and given all the security precautions now in place in malls and other public places, raising public consciousness about terrorist threats should be the least of our worries, unless we believe that the price of peace is perpetual paranoia.

Instead of merely issuing warnings, our security officials like Reyes ought to focus on doing the many things that would attack the problem of terrorism at its roots. For instance, they should sit down with their counterparts from Indonesia and Malaysia to find out how they can stop the exchange of terrorism know-how, resources and personnel. Efforts should be made to accelerate the pace of the peace negotiations with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, which should have the effect of denying Islamic terrorists a favorite sanctuary. Congress should also pass an anti-terrorism law, minus those highly repressive and ambiguous provisions that could be invoked to persecute the political adversaries of the administration. And the police and the military should be unrelenting in their efforts to search for terrorists, whether foreign or Filipino, and destroy their training camps. But first, they should learn to use intelligence information intelligently and not to mistake talk for action.

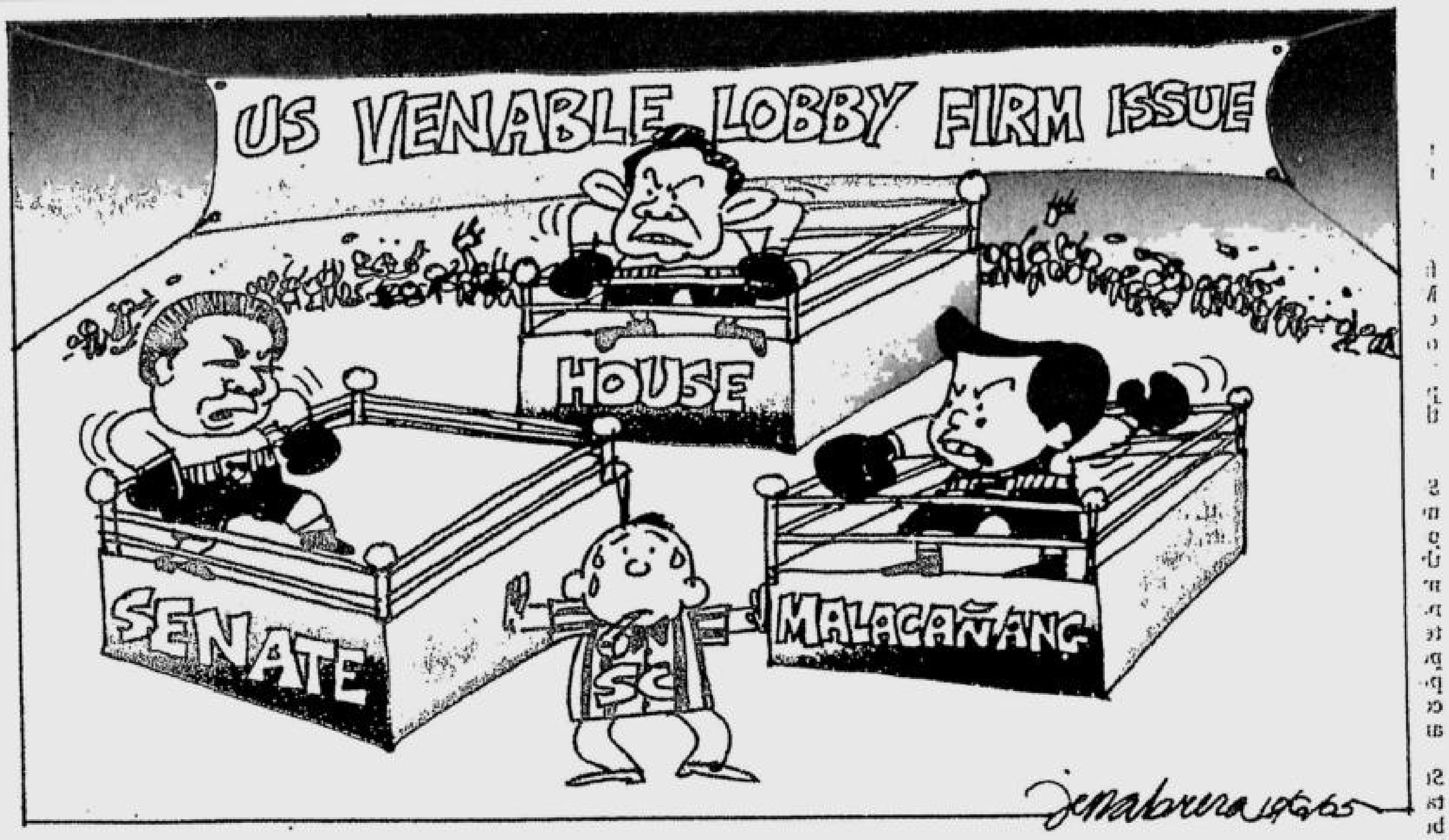
Elusive peace

FOREIGN COMMENT

TWO weeks after the Israeli withdrawal from Gaza, militant Hamas demonstrated the will and ability to unleash violence again. With the rocket attack, Hamas provoked strong Israeli reprisals. Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, pressed by extreme forces in his own party, gave the military a free rein.

The international community must, with all its power, support the moderate forces on both sides, which are fortunately the majority. There will be no peace in the Middle East until both sides accept an equal partner within internationally recognized nations, with recognized international borders.

Dagsavisen (Oslo, Norway)



Life from the dead

COMMENTARY

John J. Carroll, S.J.,
Institute on Church and Social Issues

CRISIS OF A REGIME, OR THE DEATH-THROES of an entire socio-political system? This is the question that, to this concerned observer, lurks behind the headlines.

Elite democracy has held sway in the Philippines for nearly 100 years, since the elections in 1907 when—with only 1.5 percent of Filipinos eligible to vote—Manuel Quezon Sr. and Sergio Osmena Sr. emerged as national leaders. Essentially a struggle for power among factions of the elite, this kind of democracy has done little for the poor majority—for whom the system provides only the price of a vote at election time or the promise of a job if "their" candidate wins.

The system survived the Japanese occupation and the Marcos dictatorship, quickly rehabilitating those of the elite who had cooperated with the occupiers or with the dictator, thus establishing a culture of impunity for the wealthy and the powerful, which continues to this day.

Now elite democracy faces another crisis, a multi-dimensional one. On the one hand, the "Garci tapes" and subsequent developments—climaxing for the moment with the gag order on military and police personnel—more than suggest that there are skeletons in the administration's closet which it is desperately anxious to hide. On the other hand, some of those most determined to reveal those skeletons may have less than clean hands themselves; for them the demand for the truth may be nothing more than a political tactic. On this level, the battle appears as just the latest and, perhaps, climactic episode in the century-old struggle for power among factions of the elite, which helps to explain the poor's lack of passion or concern over the controversy.

On another level, however, there are those whose demand for truth and accountability stems from a genuine concern for the nation and for its moral foundations. They note how other nations have prosecuted and jailed former presidents for corruption, set up truth commissions and published volumes of documentation on human rights abuses in a determined effort to see that these things will never happen again—while the Philippines had routinely accepted the "black sheep" back into the fold and even elected them to national office. This culture of impunity must be challenged, they argue, and the challenge must begin with the serious questions raised against the present administration.

Even more, they argue, must the administration and its congressional allies be prevented from rewriting the Constitution to their own satisfaction. It is easy to see the administration, in a diversionary tactic, blaming its troubles on a "decadent political system." Moreover, the credibility of Congress is at a low ebb for reasons too many to be recounted here. Little sustained and serious thought has been given to the main proposals being presented, namely a parliamentary system and a federal system. Neither is there reason to think that these proposals will, if enacted, touch the root problem of elite democracy, namely, the concentration of economic and political power in the hands of a few.

Among the problems faced by those who are genuinely concerned for the nation and feel that they must demand truth and accountability, and oppose the railroading of a new Constitution, is the strain that their demand puts on fragile political structures and an equally fragile economy. There appears to be a built-in tension between the claims of truth and accountability and the instability which these claims create, on the one hand; and a concern for the poor who are already suffering from rising prices and an economic slowdown, on the other. There is also the question whether—if President Macapagal-Arroyo were to resign or be forced from office—there would be an orderly succession and a successor capable of unifying the nation and facing its myriad problems.

Such a situation may call for what the sociologist Max Weber termed an "ethic of responsibility," in which one is guided not by a single overriding value or hierarchy of values but—in a world of competing values and necessary trade-offs—by a sense of responsibility for the consequences of one's decisions. This would imply pushing for truth and accountability but not to the point of violence or a breakdown of fragile political and economic structures. It would imply working, especially on the local level, where the real action is, for measures which will improve the condition of the poor; and working for the same kind of measures on the national level to the extent that this is possible, in a spirit of "critical collaboration." High priority could be given to reforming the Commission on Elections and the computerization of future elections. A careful watch on government expenditures and government appointments, and so forth could be kept.

But above all, there could be the beginning of an end to the system of elite democracy, which is the root of many of the nation's ills, by organizing discussions and action groups at the local level. Every school, church or chapel, parents-teachers' association, cooperative and credit union, labor or peasant organization could become a venue for discussing local issues (e.g. local crime or the local schools) and monitoring local governments; from there, they could move on to broader issues such as Charter change. These groups should link up with each other to engage local government and eventually—down the road—the national government.

Thus, perhaps, within the decaying body of elite democracy, new life may be born. The gestation period will be long and difficult, but anything short of building from the bottom up may just be like applying a band-aid to a cancerous wound.

What happened to democracy?

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

"BUT WHO WOULD YOU RATHER RUN THIS country?"

Someone asked me that question last week. The interesting thing about it is not that this was the first time I heard it—I've heard it countless times before. It is that a subtle difference in nuance had crept into its context. Before, when someone asked me that, there would still be some doubt about whether GMA cheated or not, or won the elections or not. The context of the question would be: OK, granting but not conceding that GMA cheated in the elections, who do you put in her place?

Today, when that question is asked, the questioner has no doubt GMA cheated in the elections. That in fact was completely explicitly acknowledged by the person who posed it to me: "Of course, we know she talked to Garci and they doctored the thing," he said. "But still who do we put in her place?" That person is by no means alone to accept the premise of cheating. He is the norm rather than the exception.

That is the most astonishing thing that has happened to us over the last few years. Like I said in several columns, the question is not, or no longer: Did GMA win the elections? The question is, or has become: What do we do with someone who did not win the elections but is already there? That is the clear, if unarticulated, question staring us in the face today.

The killing of the impeachment trial in Congress has only made it clearer. What Jose de Venecia's minions did was not to rule once and for all that GMA did not cheat in the elections, it was to decree that this country had no business discussing it. It was not to rule once and for all that GMA won the elections, it was to declare that henceforth questions about it may no longer be posed or heeded. It has become a taboo subject. GMA's subsequent executive orders banning rallies (opposing her) and preventing government officials, civilian or military, from appearing in the Senate to testify (against her) merely reinforced it. Henceforth, no one is to talk about it anymore, least of all the people privy to the cheating. Not even Garci, if he is ever found and repatriated. The whole country is to be bound by omerta, or the Mafia code of silence.

That is the context when people ask today, "But who would you rather run this country?" It is a derivative question. The question is already an answer to a primary and more important question, which is, "What do we do with someone who did not win the elections?" That question gives the answer, as the bishops themselves implicitly articulate it: Let's just accept her and move on. We have no one, or nothing, better.

It's something worth pondering in the context particularly of martial law, a topic I've been asked several times over the last few weeks, September 21 being its anniversary. I think people who have been wondering if we will wake up one of these days to find ourselves floundering in martial law would do better wondering if we are still living in a democracy even as we speak. Or at least democracy as we've known it, which is one characterized by free choice. Which is one where people are able to signify their will through the vote.

I do not know of an instance before 1972 where Filipinos agreed to be ruled by a ruler who did not win in elections. Of course, there was cheating then, there was ballot-grabbing then (which led to the deaths of teachers), there were guns, goons and gold then, but there was never any doubt about which presidential candidate won the elections. There was no doubt Magsaysay won over Quirino, there was no doubt Macapagal won over Garcia, there was no doubt Marcos won over Macapagal, and—despite the unprecedented use of violence—there was no doubt Marcos won over Osmeña. After 1986, well, Miriam complained of being robbed of the presidency by Ramos, but it was at least debatable. Miriam's view of reality was—to be charitable—not always reliable.

It's only today that we have tacitly agreed to be ruled by someone who did not win the elections.

What worries me even more deeply, however, and raises the most serious questions about the future of democracy in this country, is that the people who want to oust GMA seem to want to validate the principle, if not the current individual to which it applies. They want to remove GMA because she did not win the elections only to replace her with a group of people who did not win the elections who will govern indefinitely. Call it revolutionary council, call it Council of Elders, call it transitional government (the transition to last until elections can be turned into an even playing field), that is what it is, a group of people who were not voted by the voters. The only difference being that the new group would presumably be enlightened where GMA is rotten.

That is the most dangerous thing in the world, even with the best of intentions. Frankly, I don't know why we should be scared of martial law when we are not scared of a frame of mind that says government should be constituted not by the will of the voters, however flawed, but by a group that knows, however presumptuously, what is best for the people. Indeed, a frame of mind that says elections are a thing of the past, they have become irrelevant in today's Philippines.

In fact, it is the easiest thing to answer the question, "But who do you want to replace GMA?" I've said again and again. It is not who I want, or who you want, it is who the people want. That is what we have elections for. We do not have elections just so people can have emergency employment, and be free to disregard the results afterward. GMA is not the elected president. The one I'd want to replace her with is the one the voters will vote so.

Last I looked, that was still how democracy worked.

Stealing our Christmas

Political Tidbits

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

MANY FILIPINOS FEEL DEPRESSED ABOUT THE current feud between the Palace and the Senate, especially because the times are difficult and it's nearing Christmas. It's very much the Pinoy psyche. Our resilient people can take enormous difficulties throughout the year but as Christmas nears, they want to feel good about the world and themselves. Which is why they are so unhappy about the current situation where the Senate seems bent only on raking up issues against the administration that the opposition would have presented had the impeachment case been sent to that chamber for trial. Hence, the Senate is being perceived as conducting a "serial impeachment," which is foul.

The opposition in the House of Representatives failed to get the 79 votes needed to try President Macapagal-Arroyo, but the Senate seems to have chosen to continue with that trial—perhaps out of a mixture of frustration, vengeance and political ambition—to the detriment of the nation's progress and economy. The senators are stealing the people's Christmas.

* * *

There are those who felt frustrated that the Senate trial didn't happen, but there are also many who feel that with the junking of the impeachment complaint, Congress should put the controversy behind and work with the administration to improve the economy and our national security situation, and alleviate the terrible poverty afflicting 60 percent of our people. Recall that the first to urge Congress to put this controversy behind and move the country forward were the Catholic bishops and the business community.

In the United States in December 2000, the Supreme Court ruled that despite the uncertainty of the bitterly contested electoral race between Al Gore and George W. Bush, a winner had to be proclaimed since the date of the inauguration of a new president was fast approaching. Amid the exchange of accusations of irregularities in Florida, the Court chose Bush, and the American public and Congress closed ranks behind him.

* * *

Sadly, the same thing hasn't happened here. In fact, various opposition factions seem to have gone into a "separation of functions" though complementary on one immediate objective: to oust GMA by means fair and foul. Their ultimate goal is to grab power, never mind if they would eventually quarrel over the spoils. Former President Cory Aquino's apparent intention is to present Senate President Franklin Drilon as the alternative leader that, according to analysts, has been missing from the post-GMA scenario; which is why Aquino's campaign for people power has not gained ground. But whether his leadership could be sustained in the wake of conflicting agendas remains to be seen.

* * *

The main forum for discrediting GMA has shifted to the Senate, where even laudable projects—like the NorthRail Project funded by a very favorable Chinese loan—are being discredited. The motive seems to be to splash as much mud on the administration so as to erode its support base, never mind if dubious accusations of corruption would affect relations with our big neighbor or investor confidence, or throw away prospects of developing the north and decongesting Metro Manila.

* * *

The Senate hearings on the case of recently retired Marine Gen. Francisco Gudani have focused on a rehash of election fraud allegations. This former officer openly campaigned for Fernando Poe Jr. in the May 2004 elections. The administration has haled Gudani to a court martial for defying EO 464, which directs all executive officials to seek GMA's permission first before they appear in Senate inquiries. In Gudani's case, he violated the military code on strict discipline and respect for the chain of command, virtues which are so highly prized in the AFP. But now that order is being portrayed as a gag order.

The opposition obviously aims to divide the military. Already Marcos loyalist retirees and malcontents from other eras have rallied behind Gudani, aided by a very cooperative media.

On the other hand, the militant Left has taken to the streets, defying Manila City Hall's no-permit, no-rally order in Mendiola. The Left has stepped up its destabilization drive in an effort to break the police/AFP morale and sow anarchy. It's easy to see that both the leftists and the rightists want a big share of the action in a post-GMA era.

We, citizens, have to pull this country away from the brink of chaos and anarchy to stability and progress.

* * *

Aside from the deterioration of Palace-Senate relations, there's also the gridlock in Congress, as many of the bills passed by the House have lain fallow in the Senate. These include the bill on anti-terrorism, as well as those creating a Department of Housing and mandating a socialized and low-cost housing loan restructuring program. This gridlock has led more and more people to realize that a Charter change putting in place a unicameral system is sensible, cheaper and more efficient. Rep. Roilo Golez's argument—that without the Senate, there'll be no one to check the abuses of the Palace—doesn't make sense. If the citizens elect good, intelligent and patriotic legislators, chances are they would act in the national interest and they would keep the executive branch in check.

* * *

Doubtless, I wasn't the only one amused to read that "10 administration senators" recently signed the resolution urging a "dialogue" between the Palace and the Senate. A lot of people may have forgotten that many of the incumbent senators ran under GMA's party, especially because it's only Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago who has been defending the President in the Senate lately. GMA's case is like that of Jesus Christ who wondered where the nine other lepers he healed had gone. But that's politics.

Pamulaan, a sign of life

Human Face

Ma. Ceres P. Doyo

WHILE OUR NATIONAL LEADERS CONTINUE to engage in verbal and political acrobatics, and while many of us are suffering from political diarrhea and dementia, there are special Filipinos who continue to dream dreams and do their own part as if there indeed is hope for this benighted nation.

Somewhere in bullet-riddled Mindanao, a special tertiary school or college is rising. The school is named Pamulaan Center for Indigenous Peoples Education. Ground breaking will be held next week, Oct. 13. Program partners will sign an agreement, after which the construction of buildings will begin. These should be finished in time for the school opening in June next year.

By the way, October is Indigenous Peoples (IP) Month. For many years now, the Catholic Church here in the Philippines has been celebrating the second Sunday of October as Indigenous Peoples Day, focusing attention on the concerns of the IPs, especially the marginalized groups in remote areas.

Pamulaan means seedbed. It is a college education program for the IPs in the Philippines and a response to the IPs' dream of an educational program that is rooted in their life, culture and aspirations as a people.

One of the main driving forces behind the endeavor is 42-year-old Benjamin Abadiano, 2004 Ramon Magsaysay Awardee for Emergent Leadership. At present, he is executive coordinator of Assisi Development Foundation. A dreamer and doer, Abadiano pulled all stops to make the IPs' dream come true. He was not disappointed. Help came quietly like spring water flowing to seeds waiting to burst into life.

Pamulaan is the fruit of the partnership of various government and nongovernment agencies. The partners are the National Commission for Indigenous Peoples, Assisi Development Foundation, Cartwheel Foundation, the Office of Sen. Ramon Magsaysay Jr., and Ilawan Center for Volunteer and Leadership which Abadiano founded.

Pamulaan aims "to create culturally appropriate and relevant pathways of professional training and formation for indigenous youth and leaders."

As a program, Pamulaan is under the president of the University of South Eastern Philippines. USEP president Dr. Julieta Ortiz and Abadiano are Pamulaan's co-directors. The site is in USEP's Mintal campus in Davao City.

Pamulaan is the first of its kind in the country, said Abadiano who also dreamed and founded the successful Tugdaan Training Center for Mangyans in Occidental Mindoro. The center is now ably run by the Mangyans themselves with the help of the Holy Spirit Missionary Sisters (SSpS).

Unlike Tugdaan (which also means seed bed), which is for high school and livelihood training, Pamulaan offers degree programs such as BA Applied Anthropology and Participatory Development, BS Indigenous Peoples Education, BA Peace Building and Multi-Cultural Studies, BS Indigenous Agriculture. Pamulaan also offers ladderized and modular courses leading to an associate degree as well as short-term courses for community leaders and development workers.

Assisi Foundation under Ambassador Howard Dee and Cartwheel Foundation has pledged scholarship funds. Scholarship means full tuition, miscellaneous fees, dorm stay and full board and lodging and travel expenses to project and practicum sites.

Important features of Pamulaan are the heritage house and library that will showcase the richness of indigenous culture. The dorm within the campus will give IP students the chance to live together, exchange experiences and go through value formation programs.

Pamulaan is not just for the IPs of Mindanao. It is open to IPs from Luzon and Visayas and to non-IPs working for IPs.

Pamulaan is indeed a great dream whose time has come.

But why is Pamulaan attached to USEP, a government institution? Abadiano said USEP is one of the top 10 government institutions in the country. Making government one of the stakeholders, he said, would give Pamulaan a better chance of sustainability. Pamulaan "is not a fund-driven" project, Abadiano stressed. There was no funding in the beginning, but the moment the project was made known, funds just poured in. Of course, part of Abadiano's RM Award prize money (more than a million pesos) was earmarked for this project.

Abadiano is one of a kind, a rare find indeed. A couple of years ago, I wrote a front-page feature on him and his life journey, and last year, on his winning the RM award. Deeply spiritual, this Jesuit-educated development worker is ever on the go. In a few days, he will fly to Laos and then New Zealand for some IP-related activity. The IPs are the love of his life. It is among them that he experiences epiphany and enlightenment. Someday, I hope, he will find time to write a book.

There are around 12 million IPs in the Philippines. They could be classified into 120 ethnic groups. Abadiano said they have little or no access to "a culturally sensitive, appropriate and relevant education." It is their right, both God-given and by law, to receive basic services, including higher education.

The IPs' rights are enshrined in the 1987 Constitution. In 1997 Congress passed the Indigenous Peoples' Rights Act (IPRA) which strengthened their right to be duly recognized and protected.

But some things are easier said than done. Many IPs continue to find difficulty in relating personally, culturally and academically with mainstream realities. It is hoped that education, such as is offered by Pamulaan, would put the IPs in step with the mainstream while being affirmed as proudly IP or PIP (!).

Pamulaan hopes to see the IPs proudly "owning" the education program that drew from the life-giving wilderness and communities whence they arose.

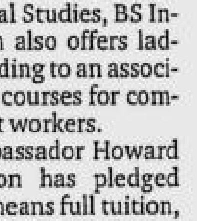
* * *

Send feedback to cerespd@info.com.ph

The 'vision thing'

The Long View

Manuel L. Quezon III



IN A BOOK I WROTE, I DESCRIBED MALACAÑAN Palace as "prize, pulpit, and stage." ("Malacañang," the reformed orthography of the Magsaysay era, today properly refers only to the Office of the President of the Philippines. Since the Aquino administration, the residential structure has been properly referred to as "Malacañan Palace"—without "the." The Elysée Palace comes with "the," but we follow the model of Buckingham Palace. Don't ask me why.)

Allow me to liberally quote myself: "But taken as a whole, Malacañan Palace revolves around power: wielding it, defending it, and seizing it. Power is why Malacañan Palace is many things: an office, so that power may be exercised; a home, for the comfort of them to whom it is given; a fortress, so that power may be protected; a park, for the relaxation of the powerful; and a stage, for the projection of the prestige and ritual on which the powerful thrive, and which feed their authority."

The Palace is all these things for the person living in it and who is thus the nation's premier tenant; and for those either aching to be the new tenant or to get rid of whoever that tenant happens to be. It is the ultimate prize, the most potentially useful pulpit, the best-equipped national stage.

The President has been best at retaining the Palace as a prize, and using it as a stage: her ceremonial has been the most exacting, elegant and traditional, harking back to the days of the Third Republic. Her weakness as chief executive has been her inability to use the Palace, and by extension, the presidency, as a pulpit. When, in 1987, George Bush Sr. received a suggestion that he turn from short-term campaign objectives and look to the longer term, his reply was a curt, "Oh, the vision thing."

The thing is, the "vision thing" is, in many ways, everything. Without it, the prize is less easy to keep, and the stage occupied by a shallow, and not particularly convincing, production number. The President's critics (and supporters, too, depending on the internal factions they belong to at any particular time), have often criticized her for being unable to either grasp the vision thing, or for her tendency to keep changing it, as if it were a pair of fashionable reading glasses. Political strategy can—and should—change, depending on circumstance, but the vision thing is supposed to remain, well, clear and never blurry.

There was once a government-sponsored video of the national anthem. It began with the official portraits of our presidents, each subtitled with what the government propagandists who produced the video considered each president's vision thing: "Independence," "Social Justice," "Man of the Masses," and so on, culminating in "People Power," "Philippines 2000," the rather enigmatic "Millennium President" (instead, I suppose, of the aborted official "Angat Pinoy 2004," and finally, "Strong Republic").

The catch-phrase "Strong Republic" was supposed to be President Arroyo's vision thing, and it was one that had tremendous potential. I strongly believed in it, and I continue to believe that the concepts and explanation of what a strong republic is (and should be), continue to be relevant and inspiring. The problem is, aside from existing posters, some license plates, and walls painted prior to the elections, the Strong Republic has been junked long ago and replaced with other "vision things," each one weaker than its immediate predecessor. There was the "10-Point Agenda," then the "Rule of Law" and "Let's Move On," and—if the President's former close associates are to be believed—the real one: the "Fear Factor."

But how does one demonstrate, much less, articulate "Fear Factor" as a "vision thing"? Particularly in terms of where our presidents tend to be bottled up most of the time, which is in the Palace? This kind of vision only promotes a greater determination to take away the prize; it isn't much of a vision to communicate from the pulpit. Of course, the President can invoke St. Michael the Archangel to make mighty swipes, figuratively or literally, with his fiery sword at the administration's critics; however, the "eternal hellfire-and-damnation" kind of preaching is really the specialty of people like Bro. Eddie Villanueva, whom the justice secretary wants arrested. Even Catholic bishops no longer seem to indulge in that kind of beatific vision thing.

As for the pulpit part, the best the President can do is have her people deliver daily sermonettes on hardly inspirational topics, such as "calibrated, preemptive responses," or "we're too busy working to make a comment," (since the usual suspects are either too tired or tend to bungle the fundamentalist message of spin doctors, who are themselves so strung out from stress that they their repetitive record-playing has begun to sound warped) or, you know, "let's move on, the economy is great, and if it stops being great it's your fault and we're prepared to take over your companies because you're just, well, bad, naughty people."

The resulting stagecraft, too, isn't particularly inspiring. Or to be fair about it, our usually unimaginative and monochrome street theater starts looking pretty interesting in comparison. On a normal Palace day, nothing should be able to beat rolling out the red carpet for a charming, inspiring beauty queen, and three, brave and popular boxing champions. But then comes a back-to-back performance of the Philippine National Police—trying to imitate the legions of Rome or the phalanxes of ancient Greece—running after hardheaded but unarmed socialists, and the result is, well, the "brutality" vision thing. Which is never inspiring.

Grieving three times

Young Blood

Joy Juliet Torres Gulosino

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—Ed.

MARCH WASN'T A MERRY MONTH FOR ME. I WAS IN grief and I was grieving for three reasons: the death of my Lola, my lost first love, and my half-eaten medical books.

Yes, you read it correctly, my half-eaten medical books. While books are supposed to be read and not eaten, mine were devoured mercilessly by termites that were unmindful of my coming board exams. Or perhaps they knew about my exams and volunteered their help in my review by eating my books so they would be easier for me to digest. I seriously considered having those termites for lunch—for transfer of knowledge, you know. Grrr!

My Lola Pepay died of lung cancer, the kind that afflicts nonsmokers. Up until 10 years ago, she was more of a lola only to my cousins in Masbate. But since 1995, after my Lolo Tinoy passed away, Lola became a member of our household. Most of my memories of her revolved around those years when she lived with us in Cebu.

Lola Pepay was a jolly person whose ability to tell stories rivaled that of Steven Spielberg. She was so passionate about everything that, for her, every emotion could only be deep or strong. Ask her about a particular relative, say former Defense Undersecretary Leonardo Quisumbing, and she would trace the family tree of Kayong and Kayang, our great, great-grandparents and conclude with her patented line: "*Parente ta inal Lupit, lupit gayud!*" (Masbateño for: He is our relative. And a close one, indeed!)

Lola bought us birthday cakes every year without fail. And if you gave her something, she would give out a heart-felt "Wow!" making you wish you had given her more. But I guess the best part about having her around was that she was always there to greet me when I got home. "*Ay, adi na si* Jingjing," she would announce the moment she saw me and then inquire if I had eaten. Then she'd hug me tightly and smother me with kisses. That was my dear affectionate Lola.

She was already confined to bed most of the time when I whispered to her that my boyfriend and I had a fight. In her usual tender, but now croaky voice, she said, "*Ayaw pag-awaya an imo katrato* (Don't quarrel with your boyfriend)."

I just smiled and looked away, not wanting her to see my tears. For how could I explain to her that it wasn't me who was at fault? How would I tell her that my first love, the one she had grown fond of, had betrayed me?

I didn't say anything. After wiping my cheeks dry, I lay beside her and we savored the quiet afternoon together. Or she was quiet while my mind was in turmoil as I thought about my beloved. I considered the reason he gave for straying into the arms of another woman: he was lonely. I thought his commitment ran deeper than that. When I first heard of it, I was devastated. The pain felt so real that my heart seemed like it was being squeezed and pierced by 50 swords at the same time. I had never known such pain before.

Two days after Lola breathed her last, a part of me also died. I broke up with my first boyfriend who I thought would also be my last. He accused me of giving up on us. I said I was letting him go. For with his unfaithfulness, he showed he had changed his mind about growing old with me. Like my shattered heart, my trust in him had been broken. He begged me to accept him back, but I wasn't sure if love and trust could be restored.

Two days after we buried my Lola, I was off duty from the hospital. I decided to go through my books, or whatever was left of them. A week earlier, I had asked our helper to "clean" them so I could sort them out later. When I got down to it, I couldn't help but cry when I saw the damage that these tiny pests left on one book after another. The books that I had taken care of so well that not one had a single earmark now had holes of different shapes and sizes. My precious books, which I spent sleepless nights reading, were highlighted with the trails of a battalion of termites. And as if to tell me their task had not been easy, the lifeless bodies of some of their fallen comrades were flattened between many of the pages.

Sure, these creatures were just being true to their nature, chewing things they came upon. But this time, they were out of place! Couldn't they have stayed outside our house and preyed upon other non-living things or perhaps gnawed away at some rotten trees?

I was distraught. But when the mist cleared from my eyes, I saw that my enemies in the insect kingdom weren't so cruel after all. Aside from my Neuroanatomy and Pharmacology books, which they totally consumed (were these their favorite subjects perhaps?), a dozen other books could still be salvaged. They had left most of the texts untouched and had confined their meals to the margins, give or take a word or two. And with their strong teeth and purposeful biting pattern, they even left some rather exotic designs on my books!

Months have passed and I have already forgiven them. Termites are no longer my enemies but I also don't want them to take a fancy to any of my books again. (Mama had the pest control people come immediately.) With God's grace, my heart has already recovered from its grief. When I remember my Lola, good memories now replace the sadness of her loss. And I have also forgiven the man who broke my heart, even if like the termites he did not ask for forgiveness.

I have learned that the act of forgiving is truly therapeutic. My days are lighter and uninterrupted by morbid thoughts about the man who is now my ex. My nights are better and free from nightmares about large, mutant termites attacking my books anew. Maybe this is why Jesus taught us to forgive our brothers not just 7 times but 70 times 7 times. He wants us to experience the liberating power of forgiveness. For with forgiveness comes freedom. Freedom from anger and hatred. Freedom to be kind even to erring brothers. Freedom from sin that wasn't yours to begin with. Freedom from painful pasts that can spoil the joys of the present. Freedom to anticipate the future without fear of loving and being hurt again. Freedom to live and let live.

Does forgiving mean I'd accept him if he comes back? But does he want to? And if he does, is he worth giving a second chance?

I don't know the answers to these questions. Maybe I will find them tomorrow. But all tomorrows belong to God. My concern is just my today and how I live each day with passion and courage.

When I fulfill my dream of becoming a licensed physician in February, I know I can turn to a dozen exotically designed books for reference. Even after the termites did their work, I still cannot say whether I can finish reading what they left for me, in time for the exams. But then my God is with me. And with Him, I know I can do everything. One day at a time.

Joy Juliet Torres Gulosino, 27, is a graduate of the Cebu Institute of Medicine.

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Benefits of alternative fuels

FIRST OF ALL, LET ME IDENTIFY myself. I am a British subject who has roamed most of this world and have held many valid driving licenses since 1942. This is a feedback on the INQUIRER's Oct. 2 Talk of the Town, which covered the topic "Running on biofuels (2)."

Before World War II, most filling stations in Europe offered various kinds of fuels, including National Benzol, which I believe was ethanol. When national rationing was stopped at the end of the war, all the remaining filling stations were bought out by the petrol companies and they offered only the oil products from the Opec countries. National Benzol became unobtainable, and we no longer had a choice but to buy Opec fuels.

In 1950, I went to live in South Africa where ethanol was available in filling stations, but at half the price of regular petrol. (Why has the price of ethanol now gone up so high?) I used a 50/50 (ethanol-regular petrol) mix in all my vehicles with no ill effects to the engines whatsoever. Mileage was much improved, but if the engine stalled, it took a little time to restart.

One of my 6-cylinder, 4-wheel drive jeeps, that I used in servicing farmsteads, was fitted for LPG use. It worked very well. It was safe to use, although its acceleration was slightly reduced.

Then I went to Switzerland and went diesel. You are correct that freezing weather tend to cause the fuel to gel in pipes under a motor vehicle. This I cured by adding one gallon of regular petrol to each full-tank. However, one can now always buy "winter diesel" at all filling stations during winter months at the same price as that of the regular petrol.

Finally, just why is cocomethyl ester (CME) being sold at such a high price? Is this an effort by the oil companies to persuade the motoring public away from using it?

—LARRY ROUYER GUILLET,
T & C Southville,
Sto. Tomas, Biñan, Laguna

Make a stand for our fisherfolk and fishery resources

THE HONG KONG MINISTERIAL Conference of the World Trade Organization (WTO) will soon get underway to finally decide the pace and scope of free trade liberalization.

We have learned from reliable sources that the government has agreed in principle to tariff reduction and elimination under the so-called Non-Agriculture Market Access (Nama). Lumped under Nama are fishery and industrial products.

Moreover, we have received reports that WTO negotiators last month expressed concern about the current restriction to fishery importation under our Sec. 61 of the Fisheries Code.

We would like to express a contrary view. Free trade under Nama threatens the livelihood of 1.78 million Filipino fisherfolk or 70 percent of the labor force in the local fishery industry.

Under a regime of free trade, the products of small fishermen cannot compete with the cheap imports from such fishery giants as China and Taiwan, which massively subsidize their fisheries industries. China alone spends $400 million to $700 million yearly for its fishing fleets. In contrast, almost no support is given to our fishermen by the Philippine government.

A case in point is the more than 2,000 Filipino tuna hand-line fishers who have lost their livelihood in the last three years after the government allowed the entry of cheaper Taiwanese tuna in Mindanao (up to 3.5 metric tons daily). This is an indication of things to come under a regime of free trade.

Free trade will compound the already unresolved problems of overfishing and resource depletion. To stave off economic dislocation under growing foreign competition, Filipino fishers will be forced to resort increasingly to destructive fishing methods that yield more fish catch, even if only for the short term.

Given these disadvantages in a free trade regime and its 10-year disastrous experience with trade liberalization, the government should at the very least negotiate for the exemption of fisheries from WTO agreements, or better yet, renege on its WTO commitments.

We also dare the government to review our fishery regulations and management programs and install and implement effective ones to ensure the sustainability of fishery resources and extend the necessary subsidies and social services to permanently eradicate poverty in coastal communities.

We call on the Filipino people to oppose the virtual surrender of our economic sovereignty by the Philippine government to powerful countries via multilateral and bilateral trade agreements that will only doom the fate of our Filipino fishermen and fishery resources.

—PABLO ROSALES,
national chair,
Progresibong Alyansa ng
Mangingisda sa Pilipinas
(Pangisda),
78C K6th St., Kamias, QC

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LETTERS

Entitled to Libingan

I AGREE WITH RETIRED COL. Medardo T. Justiniano of the 31st Division, USAFFE, that intelligence mission in World War II was as dangerous as fighting in the war front. (PDI, 9/20/05)

The same dangerous mission of intelligence gathering was done by volunteers in the guerrilla resistance movement when they were inducted into the service of the 54th Infantry Regiment, 5th Military District, 51st Division, USAFFE, known as Vinzons Division-Turko Command. Two other guerrillas in the Intelligence Corp (S-2 Operative and Messenger) and I were assigned by Col. Francisco "Turko" D. Boayes, commanding officer, to determine the number of enemy forces at the Japanese garrison in Lagonoy Central School, Lagonoy, Camarines Sur on the evening of Dec. 27, 1943.

After the intelligence operations, my two companions slept at the ground floor of our residential house along the national highway. I was, however, awakened by my mother at about 2:30 the following morning and told that we were already encircled by Japanese soldiers. I saw my two companions hogtied, and then thrown into the army truck parked in front. I then slipped through the back window under cover of darkness and ran for safety to nearby banana groves, trembling.

After torturing my companions beyond endurance for several days, the Japanese told them to run for safety only to shoot them dead.

If their skeletons could still be found today, they would be the ones entitled to a place at the Libingan ng mga Bayani, not dictator Ferdinand E. Marcos.

—GODOFREDO O. PETEZA,
Camarines Norte
Veterans District,
Pasig, Daet,
Camarines Norte 4600

The elders: our hope of the future

ANN PAWLICZKO OF THE UNITED Nations Population Fund says that "the graying of the globe is quite simply the most significant population shift in history." This lends credence to the Newsweek magazine report in December 2004 that "during the next two generations, the number of the world's people older than 60 will quadruple, rising from 606 million now to 2 billion in 2050." Newsweek says it succinctly: "For the first time in human history, the elderly will outnumber children. More and more, it's not the children who are our future, it's the seniors."

The United Nations started taking initiatives relative to "aging issues" in 1947. Having awakened to the significant implications of the aging phenomenon, in 1999, it set in motion the first International Year of the Older Persons.

Less babies are being born and individuals are living longer, adding 20 years to the average life expectancy. By 2030, one of every three persons in this planet will be over 60. Older people shall then be the agents and beneficiaries of progress. The UN in 1999 said that "older men and women require opportunities and support systems including income-generation, social security and health care."

Even in the midst of the current political and economic crisis, our government cannot just bury its head in the sand and ignore the need to set policies and plans for the millions of older persons that shall dominate the demographic landscape in this country in the not too distant future. If it is not too busy trying to do an image make-over, being overly concerned with popularity surveys, the present leadership may do well to give the seniors a little attention and show concern for their welfare—it should set up, through an executive order, say, a "Commission for Older Persons."

Even now we hear legitimate grievances from many members of the numerous organizations of seniors in the country, against the indifference of the government toward their welfare. Many provisions of existing laws for senior citizens, for example, are not being enforced or are blatantly ignored by those concerned; there is no genuine effort to set up infrastructures to promote health, improve the physical well-being, teach work skills and provide other benefits for our graying population. Tomorrow we can expect a loud critical battle cry from them—and who knows, the start of a strong lobby composed of older people, Secretary Ignacio Bunye's "feeble and senile" description of them, notwithstanding.

Our seniors need more than lip service and token gesture of assistance and support.

—EDDIE ILARDE,
former senator,
eddieilarde@yahoo.com

Imelda's jewels gifts to the nation

I WOULD LIKE TO REACT TO THE statement of Melanie Marquez, the 1979 Miss International, with regard to Imelda Marcos' jewels.

It should be noted that whenever a government official makes any representation with any foreign entity, he or she is representing his/her country and not just himself/herself. Hence, any statement made by the official is a statement made by the people to the visitor's country.

In the same manner, any gift given to the visitor is a gift of the Philippines to the visitor's country and not to the visitor himself/herself. This is reciprocal in that any gift given to the Philippine representative is a gift from the visitor to the Filipino nation.

Therefore, all gifts that were given to the former first lady were gifts to the Filipino people and not to her alone.

This distinction should hold true not only in the case of Ms Marcos but also in the case of all other government officials. Therefore, I believe that the Presidential Commission on Good Government is right in selling the Marcos jewels, more so, if the intended beneficiaries are the poor, as claimed by the government.

I just hope that the proceeds of the sale will really benefit poor Filipinos.

—CONRADO SORIANO,
dodo.soriano@gmail.com

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Lanao poll exec breaks silence on fraud charges

GUDANI in an interview with INQUIRER on the repercussions of his Senate testimony on election fraud and vote-buying in Mindanao.
LYN RILLON/PDI MINDANAO BUREAU

COTABATO CITY—A top election official of Lanao del Sur categorically debunked a Marine general's allegation that he was instrumental for his relief from the service.

"I have nothing to do with that. In fact, my last talk with him was when he informed me about his going to Cagayan de Oro City during the elections," Lanao del Sur election supervisor Ray Sumalipao said, referring to Brig. Gen. Francisco Gudani, then the commander of the First Marine Brigade in Marawi City.

"I have not made any request for his relief even before the controversial Hello Garci tape had been exposed," said Sumalipao, a lawyer and a certified public accountant.

He told the INQUIRER on Wednesday that prior to his assignment to oversee the 2004 presidential and local elections he was Lanao del Norte's election chief.

He said he believed that Gudani's relief has something to do with the shooting incident inside the Mindanao State University in Marawi City during the counting of ballots that involved Marines.

A civilian was killed and six others were wounded, in what military reports said was an accident.

At the height of the congressional inquiry into the wiretapped Hello Garci conversation between President Macapagal-Arroyo and a ranking Comelec official believed to be Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano, Sumalipao said he was eager and willing to testify after his name had been dragged twice.

"What's wrong with a subordinate talking to his superior (referring to Garcillano)?" he said.

Asked about another allegation by Gudani that First Gentleman Mike Arroyo went to the cities of Cagayan de Oro and Iligan purportedly to deliver money for a vote-buying spree in favor of Ms Arroyo's candidacy, Sumalipao said "I have not heard about it until General Gudani told the Senate about it."

"What I saw was when Gudani met two retired (military) generals in a closed-door meeting and I was not allowed inside then," he said without elaborating.

Some sectors regard Sumalipao's permanent appointment to the Lanao del Sur Comelec post as a Malacañang reward for a job well done.

He countered by saying: "This is long over due because I am very much qualified to the position being a lawyer and a CPA."

He clarified that his coveted post is not a presidential appointment but a designation approved by the Comelec *en banc*.

Sumalipao, a native of Baroy, Lanao del Norte, succeeded lawyer Muslimin Tahir. *Charlie Señase, PDI M. Bureau*

Bulacan townsfolk storm the heavens in fight vs dump

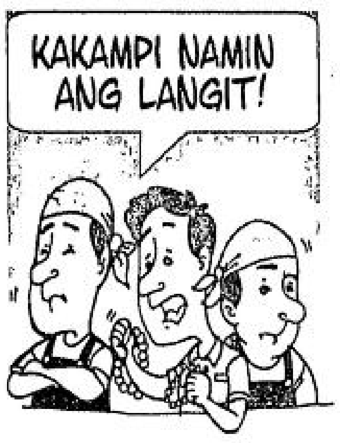
OBANDO, BULACAN—ABOUT 500 residents, fishermen and members of environment groups here have turned to St. Francis of Assisi, the patron saint of animals, for intercession to stop the operation of a dump maintained by nearby Navotas town in Metro Manila.

The group, on board at least 60 boats, staged a fluvial parade and ecumenical prayer-rally in honor of St. Francis of Assisi at the middle of Binuangan and Salambao rivers on Tuesday.

They blamed Environment Secretary Michael Defensor for allowing the operation of the Navotas controlled dump that they said led to declining fish catch and the death of their rivers.

Ricardo de Armas, chair of the fishermen's group Pamalakaya in Bulacan and an official of the Obando People's Alliance against Dumpsite (Oppose Dumpsite), said garbage and toxic chemicals are washed down the rivers especially during heavy rains.

Only a dike separates the facility, which is in a more than 10-hectare land in Barangay Tanza in Navotas, from the Binuangan and Salambao rivers in Obando.


KAKAMPI NAMIN ANG LANGIT!

The protesters earlier held rallies and rituals to ask Obando's three patron saints—Sta. Clara, San Pascual Baylon and Nuestra Señora de Salambao—to help them fight the dump.

Fishermen also blocked several points of the town's rivers to prevent garbage barges from using the dump.

Mayor Zoilito Santiago said the letters he sent to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Malacañang, the Senate and the House of Representatives appealing for action on the dumpsite's operations went unanswered.

"I wrote to all these offices but I have yet to receive even a single reply from any of them," *Carmela Reyes, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

Diarrhea, cholera outbreak kills 30

LEGAZPI CITY—THE DEPARTment of Health regional office here yesterday declared a diarrhea outbreak in the entire Catanduanes province, with 457 cases and 14 deaths reported as of Oct. 4.

Sixteen persons have also died due to diarrhea in Caramoan, Camarines Sur.

The regional DOH also declared the towns of San Andres in Catanduanes and Caramoan in Camarines Sur as having a cholera outbreak.

This prompted DOH Bicol director Nestor Santiago Jr. to send more medical teams to the two provinces to augment medical supplies and personnel and conduct daily checks on the areas, according to the DOH Center for Health and Development.

Dr. Alan Locañes, DOH regional coordinator for food and water-borne diseases, said 30 persons had died of diarrhea.

"The persons whom we got rectal swabs from are all alive. They were also the ones who were positive of *Vibrio cholera*," Locañes said.

From Aug. 2 to Oct. 4, at least 239 diarrhea cases and six deaths had been reported in San Andres and 159 cases and three deaths in Virac, 16 cases and a death in Caramoan, 15 cases and three deaths in Baras, 15 cases in Pandan, eight cases and a death in Bato and five cases in Viga—all in Catanduanes.

But Locañes said the outbreak had been contained, with daily admissions in hospitals cut by almost three times, from 30 to 32 cases per day to about six to seven cases per day.

"Even with the decreasing diarrhea cases in hospitals, we still have to be vigilant. It may be contained but it's not yet 'fire out'," he said.

Three medical teams and six nurses, including an epidemiologic surveillance unit, were deployed to Catanduanes, where 457 cases of diarrhea had been reported from Aug. 2 to Oct. 3, he added.

The teams were stationed at the Juan M. Alberto District Hospital.

A medical team was also sent to Caramoran, Camarines Sur, where 306 cases of diarrhea had been reported from June 1 to Oct. 4.

Of Caramoran's 49 barangays, 36 (73 percent) were affected, Locañes said.

The medical teams will also continue to conduct regular checks on the affected areas and send daily reports to the regional office.

A state of calamity has been declared on Sept. 13 in San Andres town.

Catanduanes Gov. Leandro Verceles said in a phone interview with the INQUIRER that the Sangguniang Panlalawigan had earmarked some P2-million for medical supplies and other needs in the affected areas.

"If the incidence of diarrhea and cholera increases, I think I would declare a state of calamity in the province," he said. *Leo Martin Ganace, PDI S. Luzon Bureau*

13,000 ARMM teachers not receiving salaries

COTABATO CITY—AT LEAST 13,000 teachers in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) have not been received their salaries for the past two months.

On Tuesday, during the start of Ramadan, public school teachers in the region queued at the ARMM's Department of Education office hoping to claim their take-home pays.

But they went home empty-handed.

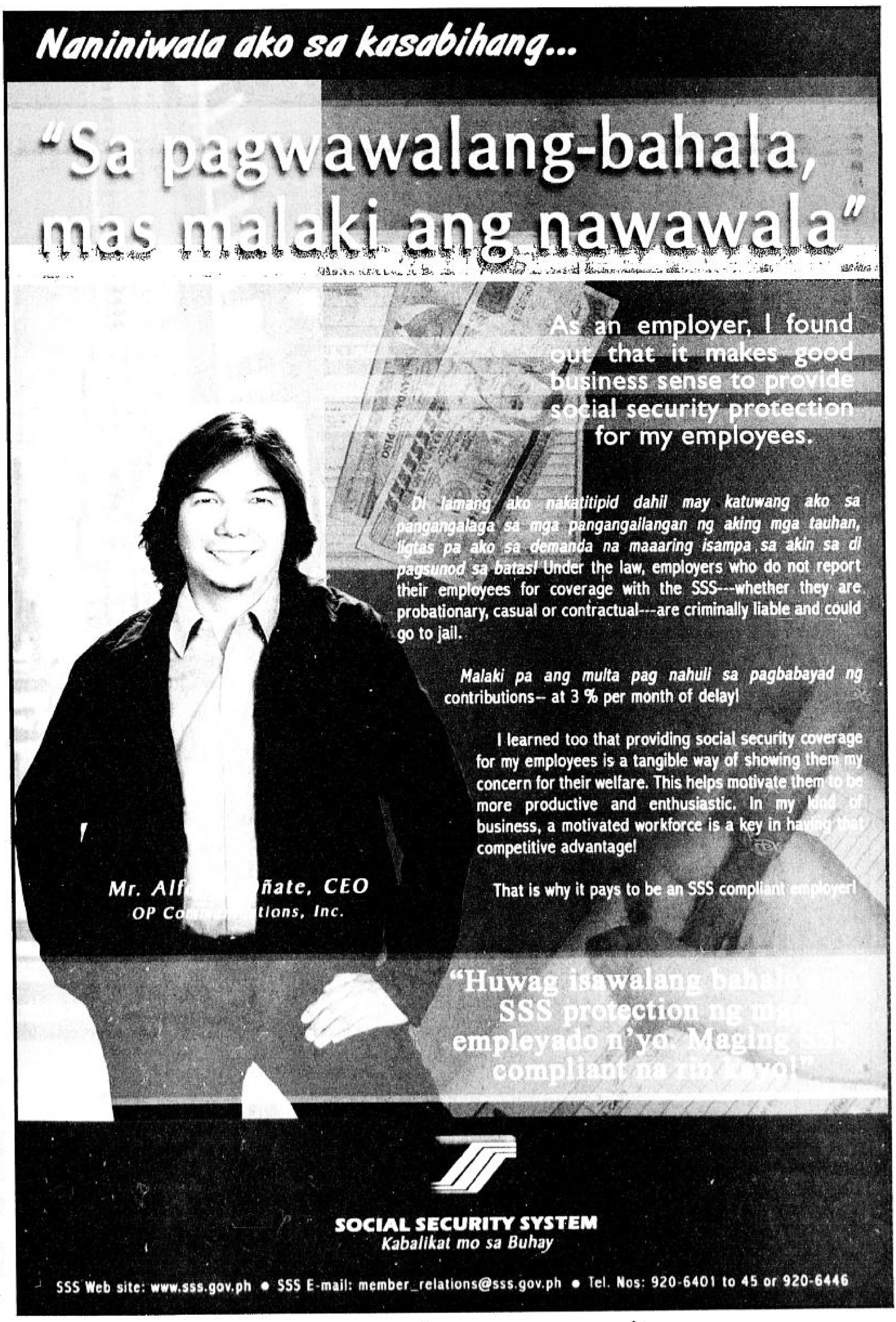
Udtog Kawit, officer in charge of the DepEd-ARMM, said aside from their salaries, the region's teachers have not been paid allowances for August and September 2005 as well.

Kawit said the delay in the release of salaries and allowances should be investigated to determine whether the budget department and the regional government have released P450 million for teachers' salaries and wages and administrative operating costs for offices and public schools covering the same period prior to the assumption of new regional officials.

He said he wants to know if the delay was unusual.

The House committee on good government is also currently investigating the non-remittance of the teachers' contribution to the Government Service Insurance System from 1997 to 2003, which amounted to P969.7 million.

Gov. Zaldy Ampatuan, who succeeded Parouk Hussin, said he was saddened by the teachers' plight. *Nash Maulana, PDI Mindanao Bureau*


Naniniwala ako sa kasabihang...
"Sa pagwawalang-bahala, mas malaki ang nawawala"
Mr. Alf[illegible]ñate, CEO
OP Co[illegible]tions, Inc.
"Huwag isawalang bahala [illegible] SSS protection ng m[illegible] empleyado n'yo. Maging [illegible] compliant na rin kayo!"
SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM
Kabalikat mo sa Buhay

As an employer, I found out that it makes good business sense to provide social security protection for my employees.

Di lamang ako nakatitipid dahil may katuwang ako sa pangangalaga sa mga pangangailangan ng aking mga tauhan, ligtas pa ako sa demanda na maaaring isampa sa akin sa di pagsunod sa batas! Under the law, employers who do not report their employees for coverage with the SSS---whether they are probationary, casual or contractual---are criminally liable and could go to jail.

Malaki pa ang multa pag nahuli sa pagbabayad ng contributions– at 3 % per month of delay!

I learned too that providing social security coverage for my employees is a tangible way of showing them my concern for their welfare. This helps motivate them to be more productive and enthusiastic. In my kind of business, a motivated workforce is a key in having that competitive advantage!

That is why it pays to be an SSS compliant employer!

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INQUIRER Southern Luzon
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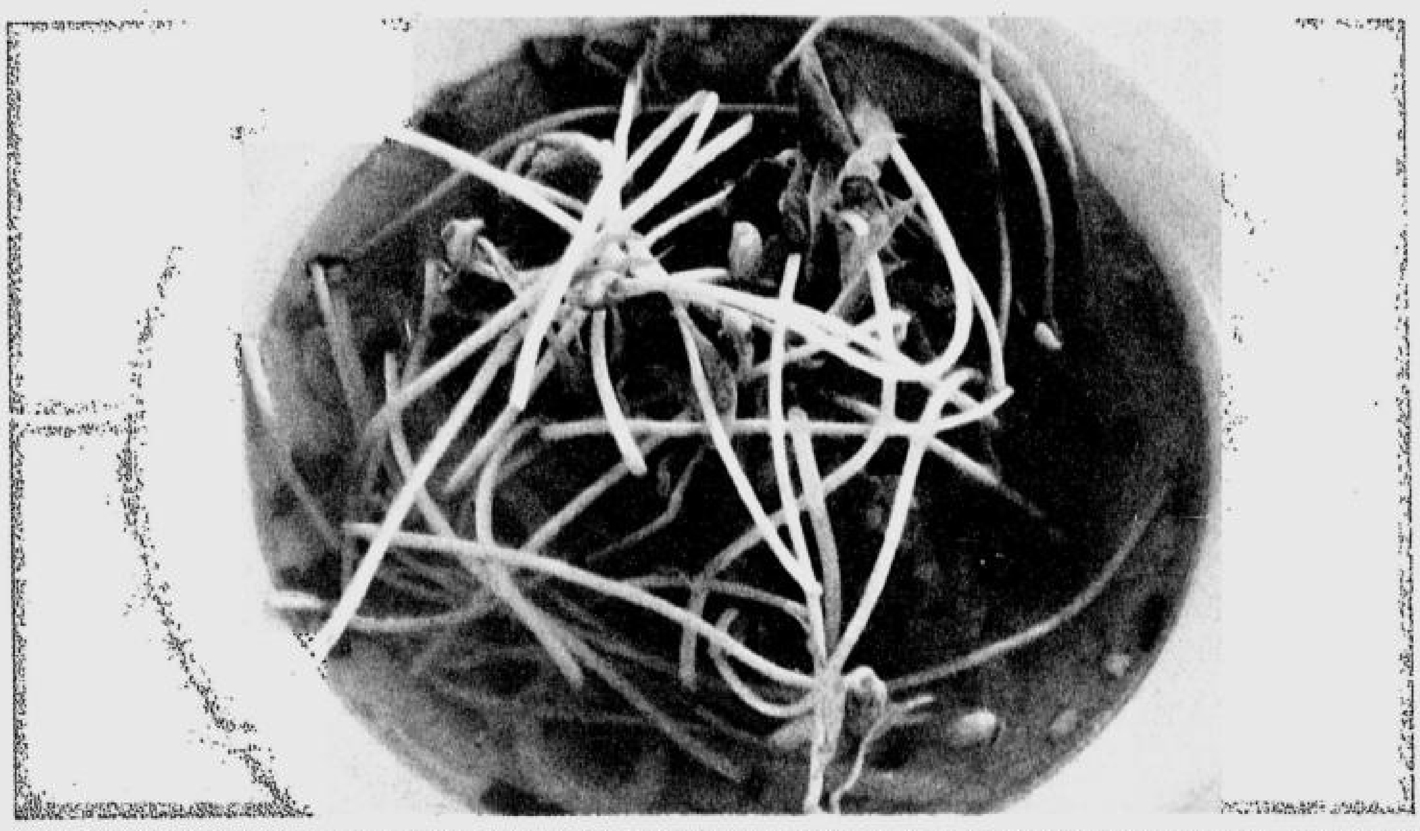
Palawan folk to miss 'chaolong'

By Jofelle P. Tesorio
Puerto Princesa City

IN THE NEXT FEW MONTHS, Palawan's regular motorcycle-riding "my friend," a Vietnamese refugee, who sells different products, from umbrellas to jewelry, will be gone.



THE CHAOLONG, or rice noodles, will be missed by Palawan folk when the Vietnamese refugees finally leave the city. JOFELLE TESORIO

Only a few of the almost 2,000 refugees, who first landed in Palawan in 1975, remain and most of them are now United States-bound.

Malou, a Filipina married to a Vietnamese, said less than 20 families are staying in the Vietnamese Village, some 12 km from the city proper.

These include those with Filipino wives and those waiting for their flights to the US.

The first batch of Vietnamese refugees in the Philippines, mostly from Palawan, left on Sept. 26 onboard a chartered flight to the US.

This, after the US government agreed to accept the Vietnamese in batches starting Sept. 25, through the help of the International Office of Migration.

Except for those who have married Filipinos, almost all of them are seeking greener pastures in the US, Australia, New Zealand or any country that would accept them.

Some Vietnamese, who have established businesses in Palawan, are now selling their vehicles and shops because they know that the embassy would call for them soon.

Friends

Xuan Nguyen, 21-year-old nursing student at the Holy Trinity College, said her family was waiting for the US Embassy's notice for their flight to Northern California where their relatives are staying.

Her uncle is among the first batch who left on Sept. 21.

She said she planned to continue her studies there, find a job, help her family and eventually marry a millionaire.

Xuan said she has no boyfriend in the Philippines because she is not supposed to have any romantic relationship while studying.

When she leaves, along with her parents and three younger siblings, she will miss her friends, the Filipino movies, songs and food.

Xuan's favorite singers are Regine Velasquez, Jasmine Trias and Aiza Seguerra.

Chaolong

She said their store named Hoalan along Rizal Avenue in Puerto Princesa would be closed by next year.

But if there is one thing Palaweños will miss about the Vietnamese, it is their rice noodles, locally known as "chaolong."

Most of the Vietnamese have a noodle shop business, which locals call "chaolongan." These are found all over Puerto Princesa City.

It is a term coined from the delicious rice noodle served with mungbean sprout and wild chili called chaolong.

It is a favorite among locals, especially among those who stay out late in the evening because most "chaolongans" operate 24 hours.

Chaolong, French bread and Vietnamese spring rolls have become part of the local cuisine, just like native cashew nuts.

Traders

In the Vietnamese Village, other enterprising Vietnamese earn a living selling goods ranging from jewelry to umbrellas on an installment basis.

They go around town on motorcycles offering their merchandise at rock-bottom prices.

A market vendor said she will surely miss her good "friend" because she is always at the market everyday buying supplies for the chaolongan.

Some who offer loans to market vendors will surely be missed also because unlike others who give credit, the Vietnamese are considerate.

Cocoy Maglaya, an Internet café owner, said he would miss his Vietnamese customers who have become his friends.

But there are some noodle houses that will stay here for good or until the Vietnamese owners decide to go, just like the case of Filipino and Vietnamese couple Malou and Nguyen.

Malou said her husband Nguyen asked her to decide for their family. They met eight years ago and have two children, aged 7 and 4.

At the moment, she wanted to stay in Palawan but she also leaves the decision to her husband if he wanted to go to the US.

Her brother-in-law flew to the US last Sept. 26.

But for now, they will operate the chaolong house on Rizal Avenue as long Palaweños like their noodles and bread.

She said she is happy in Puerto because they have a little business and her husband is hardworking like most of the other Vietnamese.

They were still staying at the Vietnamese Village but were planning to buy a house and lot if they have enough money.

Because of hard work, they were able to buy a used pick-up vehicle for their noodle business.

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A VOLUNTEER from Mirant Philippines shares children stories before her audience inside the new classroom at Tignoan Elementary School. DELFIN T. MALLARI JR.

Calamity-stricken villages get schools from power foundation

By Delfin Mallari Jr.
Real, Quezon

THREE NEW SCHOOL BUILDings were turned over by Mirant Philippines Foundation (MPF) to local school officials on Sept. 28 as part of the foundation's relief and assistance program to the calamity-stricken villages of Tignoan, Kiloloron and Cawayan in Real, Quezon.

Rampaging landslides caused by three successive typhoons that hit northern Quezon last year destroyed all the old school buildings in the town.

Councilor Edith Escama sought the help of television broadcaster Henry Omaga-Diaz for the construction of the new buildings during one of the live broadcasts from the town.

"It turned out that when I made the appeal in Henry's program, he had the officials of Mirant Philippines Foundation as guests. Right there, Mirant officials told me that they would help us construct new school buildings," Escama said.

Roberto Calingo, executive director of MPF, the corporate social responsibility arm of Mirant Philippines, said the education of Filipino children is one of Mirant Philippines' social responsibility thrusts.

"The school buildings would serve as an asset of the three villages in the molding of future responsible citizens of the country," he said.

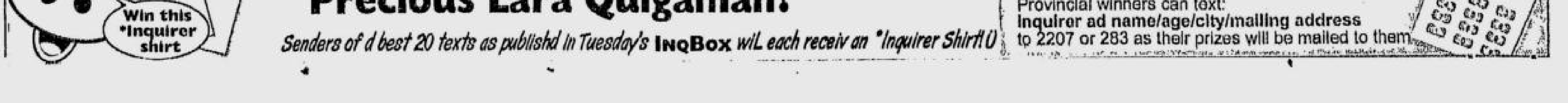
The MPF also distributed several boxes of school books.

Tignoan Elementary School principal Gloria Atendido said their old building was completely destroyed by the mudflow that rampaged from the hill at the back of the school.

She said the new rooms would be used by their Grade 1 pupils.

Mirant employees also conducted storytelling sessions among the pupils.

Real Mayor Arsenio Ramallosa led local officials and school authorities in the formal acceptance of the new school buildings during the collective turnover ceremony held at Cawayan Elementary School.



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Hotline leads cops to drug den

By Jocelyn R. Uy

THE HOTLINE WORKS.

A call to Taguig City's hotline 640-2222 resulted in the arrest of eight men in a raid on an alleged gambling and drug lair yesterday morning.

Councilor Henry Dueñas Jr., chair of the City Council's committee on peace and order, said an informant had called up the city's hotline to complain about suspicious activities in a house on Luzon Street, Moral Compound, Zone 5 in Barangay Signal Village.

The informant, the councilor recounted, had told authorities the place had become a sanctuary for illegal gamblers and drug pushers.

After a string of surveillance operations, the local police was able to confirm the report.

At about 5:30 a.m. yesterday, men from the Taguig Anti-Crime and Illegal Drugs Task Force led by Senior Insp. Eufronio Obong, Jr., with policeman-turned-councilor Duenas, swooped down on the area.

Auto Cornillo, alias "Batang" and Moral Cesar, alias "Kulot," alleged to be drug pushers, were arrested in the raid, along with six other men.

The suspects were caught playing a video *karera* machine and *cara y cruz*, a heads-or-tails games using coins. Cornillo and Cesar also yielded sachets of methamphetamine hydrochloride or shabu were also seized from the suspects.

Local police have yet to determine the amount of the confiscated illegal drugs.

Dueñas added that they had received several complaints against the two suspects who were allegedly behind the proliferation of drugs in the village.

The eight suspects were charged with illegal gambling.

An additional charge of violation of the Dangerous Drugs Republic Act 9165 or the Comprehensive Dangerous Drugs Act of 2002 were filed against Cornillo and Cesar.

The 24-hour anti-crime hotline service was initiated by Taguig City Mayor Freddie Tinga in June to respond to any emergency within two to five minutes after a call is made.

Family wants slay raps amended

By DJ Yap

THE FAMILY OF SLAIN used-car dealer Edman Sy has asked the Quezon City prosecutor to amend the charges filed against Sy's suspected killer from homicide to murder.

In a motion filed in behalf of Sy's family, lawyer Mario Ongkiko questioned the fiscal's resolution to file homicide charges against Don Louie Leaño without a preliminary investigation.

Ongkiko noted that Sy, who would have turned 24 the other day (Oct. 3), was shot twice from behind while running down the stairs.

No chance

"This is a clear case of murder, plain and simple… being killed with two mortal gunshot wounds from the back, Edman was not given any opportunity at all to defend himself," the family said in a statement.

Leaño allegedly shot Sy with a .38 caliber revolver between 11:50 a.m. and 12:10 p.m. inside a house on Data St. in Barangay Don Manuel, Galas.

Ongkiko noted in his motion that Quezon City Police District criminal investigation division chief P/Supt. Procopio Lipana recommended the filing of murder charges against Don Louie, the son of Department of Trade and Industry officials.

But instead of murder, assistant prosecutor Meynardo Bautista filed a homicide case against the suspect, as "there was no clear evidence of qualifying circumstances."

INDONESIA
PHILIPPINE
AFGHANISTAN
U S
VENEZUELA

MISS EARTH BETS
Candidates for Miss Earth 2005 (from left) Jenny Sutjiono (Indonesia), Gennebelle Raagas (Philippines), Sutara Bahrami (Afghanistan), Amanda Kimmel (USA) and Alexandra Braun Waldeck (Venezuela) pose for lensmen at the press presentation of contenders for the title at Manila's Hyatt Hotel.
LYN RILLON

METROBRIEFS

No place to hide

THE MAN who allegedly run over a 17-year-old student several times to make sure she was dead was finally arrested and is now under the custody of Malabon police. Rusty Pagula, 23, was turned over by Oriental Mindoro police to their counterparts in Malabon after he was caught at a relative's house where he hid for more than three months. Police said the the KIA Besta van driven by the suspect on June 22 hit Nikka Charlene Ardiente along General Luna St. Witnesses said they saw the van run over Ardiente several times before it sped off. *Nancy C. Carvajal*

Wet and wild chase

PWEDE BANG MALIGO MUNA ?

EVEN the murky Malabon river was not a deterrent for pursuing residents who went after a snatcher yesterday after he jumped into the river to escape from the law. Danilo Canlas was turned over by residents to the local police after he was fished out of the river by irate residents. Police said Canlas had ran off with items belonging to Julia Francisco, a teacher, when the jeepney she had boarded had stopped to pick up a passenger. Francisco's cries for help attracted the attention of bystanders who immediately gave chase. *Nancy C. Carvajal*

Not slippery, after all

THE LEADER of the notorious "Bolt-Cutter Gang" responsible for a series of heists in Metro Manila was finally arrested by agents of the National Bureau of Investigation last weekend. The suspect was identified as Ronald Gomez Castro, 37, of 1269 Bambang St., Tondo, Manila. The NBI Field Operation Division received information that Castro, who has a standing warrant of arrest for robbery, was seen in his house on Iba Street, Quezon City last Friday. Armed with a warrant of arrest, bureau agents apprehended Castro and immediately brought him to the NBI jail. Castro's gang had allegedly victimized several grocery stores, computer shops, and auto supply dealers in Metro Manila, Central Luzon, and the Southern Luzon area. *Margaux C. Ortiz*

Bro. Eddie Villanueva had it coming

ON TARGET
Ramon Tulfo

JUSTICE SECRETARY RAUL Gonzalez should not be blamed for ordering the arrest of Bro. Eddie Villanueva because the Protestant preacher asked for it.

After all, Gonzalez was just implementing a warrant of arrest issued by a court against Villanueva.

Villanueva wants to make himself a martyr of an estafa case that Gonzalez didn't have any hand in filing.

The founder of the Jesus is Lord Church doesn't want to file his bail bond, challenging authorities to arrest him.

Gonzalez only accepted his challenge.

Nobody should be a sacred cow in this country when it comes to upholding the law.

* * *

Estafa, as we all know, is not a political crime but a crime of misappropriating another person's money.

Being an intelligent man, Villanueva should know that estafa is a crime equivalent to theft. It's not something to crow about.

As to his guilt or innocence, that's up to the court to decide.

* * *

Retired generals are calling for reforms within the Armed Forces.

C'mon guys, don't be such hypocrites!

You had the chance to reform the military during your time but you purposely didn't do so because you were mired in graft yourselves.

You, retired generals, should be the last ones to call for reforms in the military.

* * *

The policeman-bodyguard of Quezon City Councilor Aiko Melendez should have prevented the brawl between his ward and some female bar guests instead of taking part in the free-for-all.

PO3 Jun Alvarez forgot that he was a peace officer, foremost, and a personal bodyguard, second.

The brawl between the actress-politician and other female guests at Nuvo Bar wouldn't have taken place if Alvarez got in the middle of the two warring camps.

Men should not take part in a women's quarrel. A man who does invites suspicion of being a "softie."

Alvarez punched the nose of Ronald Serrano, the male companion of Aiko's opponents, who was trying to pacify them, according to some witnesses.

The claim that Serrano mashed Aiko, prompting her bodyguard to punch him in the nose, is unbelievable.

Why would a businessman out on a good time with female friends mash another female guest, especially a public figure like Aiko, when his female friends were with him?

Serrano was hit with a double whammy—a broken nose and a destroyed reputation. His friends now teasingly call him a masher.

* * *

Former President Cory Aquino said she would never espouse violence, contradicting claims by Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago she was in on the plot against President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Aquino is telling the truth.

Cory is too naïve a person to think of violence. In her time, she was called the "TWA President." TWA stands for "*talagang walang alam*" (certified gullible).

Pasay City looking for model senior

By Jocelyn R. Uy

PASAY CITY HAS RESERVED A seat for a "smart and strong" senior citizen who would represent the city in the national movement for the concern of the elders.

A senior citizen must be mentally and physically fit, a bonafide city resident and a member of the duly accredited Senior Citizens Organization, said City Social Welfare Development head Emi Calixto-Rubiano.

The City Council would pick three nominees from a list of qualified senior citizens, with Pasay City Mayor Wenceslao "Peewee" Trinidad making the final decision.

The mayor's choice would join other city executives' bets nationwide in a national senior citizens assembly.

At the assembly, a delegate would be chosen to occupy a seat for a three-year term in the Office of the National Senior Citizens Affairs that would advocate the general concerns of the elderly.

The search was announced recently during the Senior Citizens Assembly at the Cuneta Astrodome attended by roughly 2,000 active elders from all over the city.

The nomination stemmed from the Memorandum Circular of the Department of the Interior and Local Government based on the Republic Act 9257 or the Expanded Senior Citizens Act.

Trinidad also appealed to the elders to unite as one body to strengthen the group and to serve as good models for the youth.

Precious wants to help street kids

MISS INTERNAtional 2005 Precious Lara Quigaman has a soft spot for street children.

"We see a lot of street children everywhere not only in Manila but in different parts of the Philippines. That's something I want to prioritize," she told reporters when she paid a courtesy call on Mayor Lito Atienza at City Hall yesterday morning.

Quigaman, 22, the fourth Filipina to win the Miss International contest in the pageant's 46-year history, said she intends to hold fundraisers for street kids with the help of other organizations. *Tina G. Santos*

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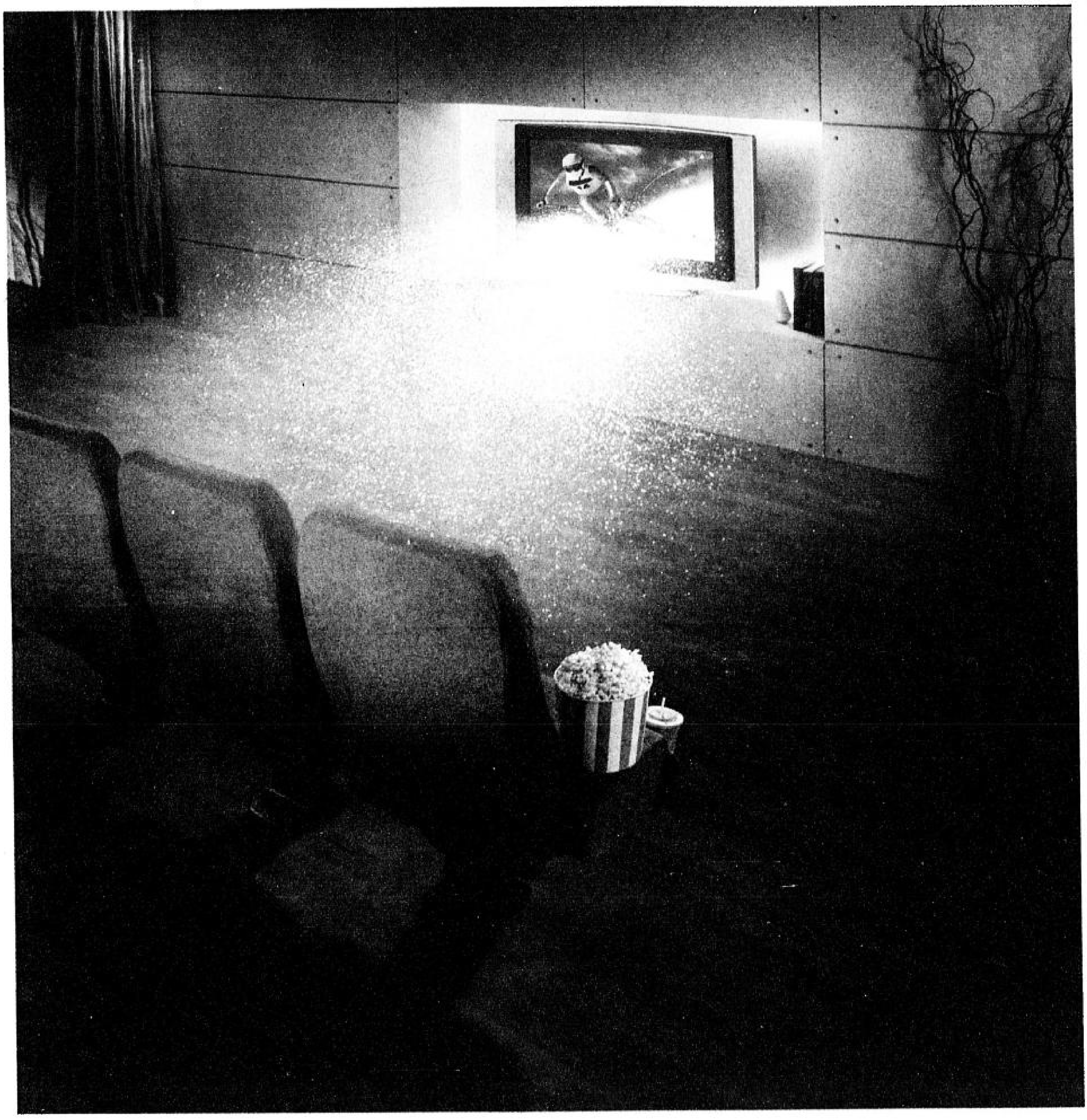

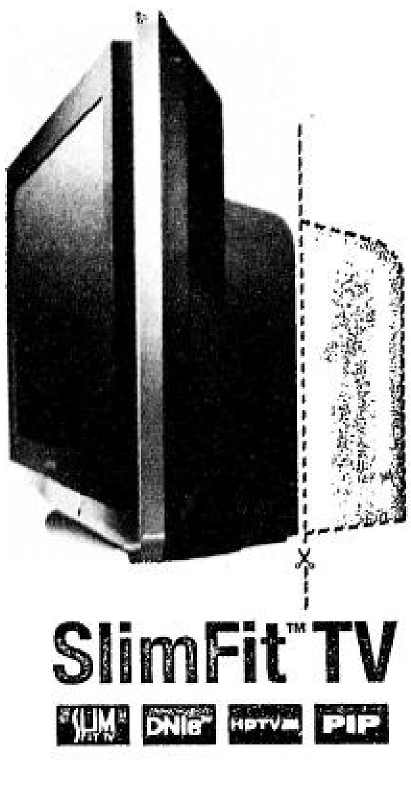

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SAMSUNG

Metro jeeps, buses defer fare hike

By Clarissa S. Batino

A CALL FROM TRANSPORT SECRETARY Leandro Mendoza over the weekend prompted Metro jeeps and buses to hold—for now—a plan to ask for a P1.50 and P2-increase in their minimum fares.

"The decision not to file any petition for now was made in deference to President Macapagal-Arroyo with whom the transport groups would like to meet so they could explore alternative ways to address the surging fuel prices," said lawyer Vigor Mendoza, spokesperson of the transport groups.

Metro jeep and bus operators were poised to submit their fare hike petition this week, their second for the year. Jeeps and buses started collecting a P2-fare increase last June 21, raising their minimum fares to P7.50 and P8 respectively.

The move was announced at a meeting yesterday of leaders from the Pinagkaisang Samahan ng Tsuper at Opereytor Nationwide or Piston, Federation of Jeepney Operators and Drivers Association of the Philippines or Fejodap, the Alliance of Transport Operators and Drivers Association of the Philippines or Altodap and the Makati Jeepney Operators and Drivers Association or Mjoda. Heads of Metro and provincial bus groups also attended the meeting.

Before considering a new fare increase, transport groups had exhausted efforts in pursuing non-fuel remedies to stave off a fare increase.

But their proposal had fallen on deaf ears. The threat of an increase, however, reportedly made Mendoza sit up and listen.

Jeepney groups wanted the government to scrap the emission testing that required each unit to pay P1,300 upon registration.

They had also pressed for the implementation of the no-fault third party liability insurance, which had been waiting for the transport department's approval for a year.

Transport groups also sought a suspension of the duties and taxes on the importation of spare parts and wheels, apart from financial support and incentives so they could explore alternative fuels like liquefied petroleum gas.

Drivers had been buckling under the pressure of increased fuel costs. The price of diesel had gone up by P6 a liter since public utility vehicles raised their fares in June, Mendoza said. From about P26 a liter in June, diesel now costs roughly P32 a liter. The energy department had projected a continuous increase in the prices of petroleum products.

Taxis also have a pending petition for a P15-increase in fare. Provincial aircon buses have also asked for a 25-centavo per kilometer increase in fares. Both are seeking their first fare hike petition this year.

Motorcycle thieves nabbed in Parañaque

By DJ Yap

BOUGHT A MOTORCYCLE FOR P6,000?

That cheap beauty was probably stolen by thieves.

Five suspected motorcycle thieves were caught in separate police operations in Parañaque City on Sept. 23 and Oct. 4. They were presented to the media yesterday by National Capital Region Police Office director Vidal Querol at the Kamuning Police Station in Quezon City.

Police said their modus operandi involved inserting a screwdriver-like object to the ignition key of a parked motorcycle, starting the engine and driving away.

On interrogation, the suspects admitted they sold the motorcycles for as low as P6,000 in Imus, Cavite.

Operatives station of the Anti-Carnapping Division of the Southern Police District in Parañaque City caught two notorious car thieves inside Moonwalk Subdivision on Sept. 23.

They were identified as Ireneo Papa and Richard Garcia, both of Kalsadang Luma, Imus. Police recovered four stolen motorcycles from the suspects.

On Oct. 4, Michelle Abrera, Omar Guevarra and Orlando Olaez were apprehended in follow-up operations, police said.

At the same press conference, a notorious robbery group allegedly responsible for "payroll hold-up" incidents in Valenzuela City was also presented to media.

Seven suspected members of the "Jiovanie Magaso Group" were arrested at their hideout in Sapa Bisalao, Bagbaguin on Oct. 4 by Northern Police District operatives.

Recovered from the group were P40,000 in cash, a ladies' wristwatch, a shoulder bag containing a passbook and other documents, a hand grenade, a .38 caliber revolver and five bladed weapons.

Catalina De Los Reyes, 33, a clerk of Metro Power Services Agency and Company, positively identified the suspects as the ones who robbed her before police attending the press conference.

SPORTS

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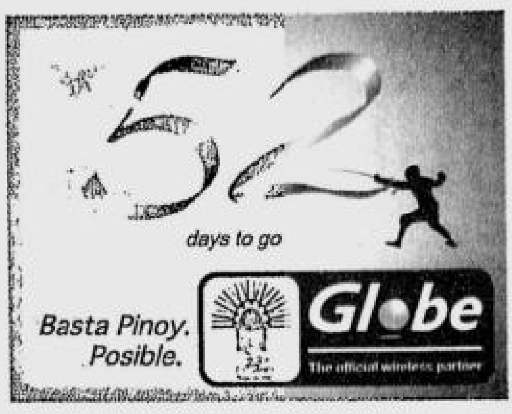

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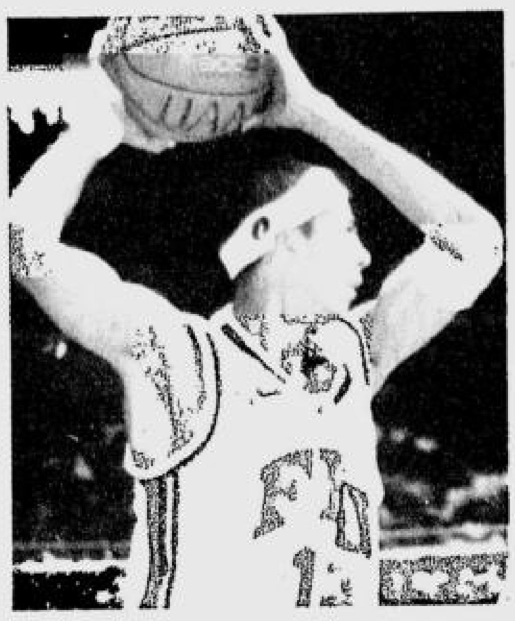

SANTOS: Player to watch AUGUST DELA CRUZ

ARCHERS READY

Tams shoot for UAAP title

FAR EASTERN U COACH BERT Flores has been keeping his words to a minimum. For a formidable and driven team like the Tamaraws, there's no need for too many instructions.

"I'm just guiding them and focusing on how to motivate them," said Flores of his Tamaraws who will shoot for the UAAP basketball championship against the De La Salle Archers at 3:30 p.m. today at the Araneta Coliseum.

"But we can't relax," added Flores. "We still have to work hard. We can't celebrate yet. It's payback time (from last year's Finals), but we're just halfway through."

A rubber match, if necessary, will be held this Saturday also at the Big Dome.

All the expectations could indeed be stressful for the Tamaraws, but the pressure is certainly greater for the Archers, who are facing a looming Finals sweep.

Yet La Salle coach Franz Pumaren is not worried a bit.

"I'm confident that we can still level it in the next game," said the eight-year mentor of the defending champions. "It was just a mental lapse in the last few minutes (of Game 1). But the way we played, we're still capable of making a run for this. We still have two games to win the championship."

With Arwind Santos' spectacular clutch plays, the Tamaraws claimed Game 1 with a 75-73 come-from-behind win over the Archers.

"It was a good thing Arwind was there," said Flores of his star forward, who nailed the game-tying triple and the deciding putback with 5.5 seconds left.

"We were able to break La Salle's press, that's also one thing," the rookie mentor said after the Tamaraws snapped the Archers' six-game winning streak. "We were able to limit their shooters like (JV) Casio and (TY) Tang."

Joseph Yeo shot a team-high 26 points for the Archers, who have yet to win over the Tamaraws this season. Santos is coming off a 29-point and 14-rebound performance.

"You won't even see me wearing a long face because I'm happy with the performance of my players," insisted Pumaren after the Archers blew a 14-point lead, 43-29, in Game 1.

The La Salle Zobel Junior Archers will gun for their first title against the UP Junior Maroons at 1 p.m.

The Ateneo Lady Eagles will also aim for a Finals sweep versus defending champion Adamson Lady Falcons in women's play at 11 a.m.

Jasmine W. Payo

GAMES TODAY
(Araneta Coliseum)
11 a.m.—Ateneo vs Adamson (Women)
1p.m.—La Salle vs UP (Jrs-Game 2)
3 p.m.—Awards
3:30 p.m.—FEU vs La Salle (Srs)

PBA backs formation of new body

By Musong R. Castillo

THE PHILIPPINE BASKETBALL ASSOCIATION will not act as a "hindrance" to the new cage body that will be formed by the Philippine Olympic Committee as part of its Memorandum of Understanding with the international basketball federation (Fiba).

Asia's first professional cage league, in fact, is willing to transfer its own MOA with the expelled Basketball Association of the Philippines to the new group.

"We support that group, no doubt about it," PBA commissioner Noli Eala told the INQUIRER yesterday. "But whether we will be a part of running the day-to-day activities of that new group still has to be discussed with the (league's) board."

Eala said that the PBA will readily make its players available for the new group, which will be made up mainly of the PBA, the Philippine Basketball League, the UAAP, the NCAA and Joey Lina, the president of the BAP.

But Eala said that the PBA should be informed of its responsibilities and the "contributions" of the other stakeholders in the new group.

"If you ask us if we will lend players. Yes. If we are ready to adjust our calendar for the group? Yes," Eala said. "We just want to know the extent of our responsibilities. We will even transfer our MOA (with the BAP) to this group if need be."

The MOA forged early this year between the PBA and the BAP called mainly for the fielding of pro stars in the Fiba-Asia (formerly ABC) tournament with an eye on possibly gaining a slot to the 2008 Olympic Games in Beijing.

The new cage organization is the only thing that can save the holding of the basketball tournament in the coming SEAG.

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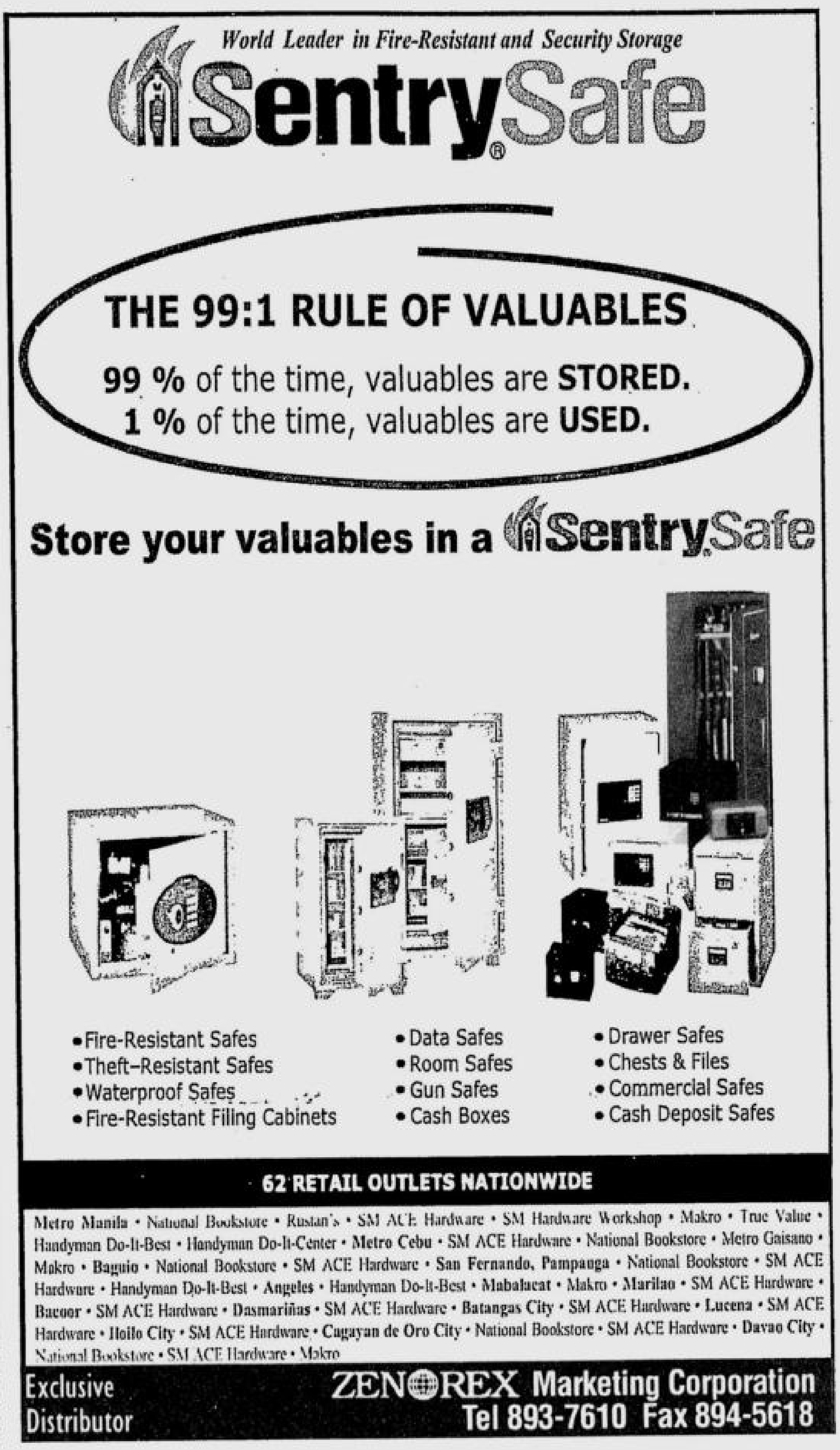

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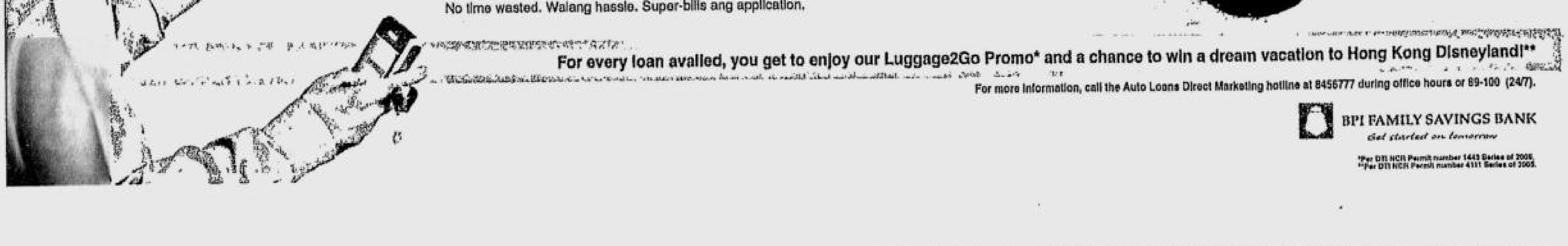

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Tribu Sugbu subdues Valencia dribblers in two overtimes

VALENCIA CITY—DEFENDING champion Tribu Sugbu squandered an 18-point lead but steadied in the homestretch to eke out a 93-88 double overtime victory over Valencia's Golden Harvest Tuesday in Game One of their best-of-three Southern Conference semifinal series in the 2005 Panasonic-NBC national basketball championship here.

Alex Cainglet buried his fourth triple in the last 37 seconds of the second overtime to give Tribu a 90-88 lead after Eliazar Berami had put Valencia ahead, 88-87, on a Julius Navales pick-and-roll pass. Doroteo Almacin and Ronald Bucao completed the Cebuanos' victory with three free throws.

Mayor Jose Galario Jr.'s Valencia cagers came back from a 45-63 deficit by outscoring Tribu, 21-8, in the payoff period. Valencia held the Cebuanos scoreless for six minutes in one stretch of the final canto.

Jester Adams scored on a fastbreak to send the game into overtime at 75.

The Cebuanos of businessman Lito Gillamac and Mario King had possession with four seconds left in regulation, but Bucao committed a traveling violation.

After Cainglet bungled two charities in the last eight seconds of the first extra period, Berami tipped in a Navales miss with eight-tenths of a second left to extend the game anew.

Tribu's big men—Rex Mangubat, Marvin Mercado and Chris Ferraren—fouled out in regulation but Cainglet and the other Tribu guards came to the Cebu team's rescue in the homestretch.

"It all boiled down to my players' big hearts and experience," said Tribu coach Al Solis. "My big men fouled out but the guards stepped up."

Cainglet and Boyet Guerrero led Tribu with 14 points apiece.

If Tribu wins anew, it will meet Ozamiz in the Southern Conference finals of the tourney supported by Panasonic, Sulpicio Lines, Spring Cooking Oil, Sunbolt Sports Drink, Accel, Molten, Far Eastern Insurance, Skygo Motorycles, Sirlitz, Hapee Toothpaste, Dewfoam, KSK Food Products (Boy Bawang), Bayview Park Hotel, Holiday Plaza-Cebu and Prime Channel.

Lampley sparkles as Kings prevail

GAMES TOMORROW (*Ynares Center*)
4:40 p.m.—Purefoods vs Air21
7:25 p.m.—San Miguel Beer vs Talk 'N Text

By June Navarro

HOLDING SEAN LAMPLEY DOWN WAS A PUZzle Coca-Cola failed to solve.

Powered by Lampley's high-octane offense, the Barangay Ginebra Kings posted an 89-81 come-from-behind victory over the Tigers during their season opener last night in the San Mig Coffee-PBA Fiesta Conference at the Araneta Coliseum.

Lampley scored 24 of his 29 points in the final half, mostly on post-up plays, as the Kings rallied from double-digit deficits to turn back the Tigers.

"We relied heavily on Lampley," said Barangay Ginebra coach Siot Tanquingcen. "But we cannot survive this tournament if we lean on him all the time. The locals should also share the burden."

Jayjay Helterbrand and Mark Caguioa also came up with brilliant moves down the wire but it was Lampley, an NBA veteran, who carried much of the load.

Lampley, who helped the Red Bull Barako win the 2002 Commissioner's Cup crown, clustered 12 straight points on a variety of shots bridging the third and the fourth quarter as the Kings rallied from 12 points down.

With the Ginebra faithful roaring in delight, the Kings went in for the kill as Helterbrand and Caguioa backstopped Lampley's scoring spree.

The Kings finally caught up at 75-all on Helterbrand's fastbreak layup off rookie Dennis Miranda and then converted 11 of their last 12 free throws to clinch the win.

Lampley typified the Kings' accuracy from the stripe, sinking 13 of 16 charities, including 12 straight in the latter half. He also grabbed 15 rebounds and issued four assists.

Caguioa finished with 15 points on six of 15 shooting while Helterbrand and Andy Seigle added 14 and 13 apiece.

"He's (Lampley) a little bit out of shape but he showed his professionalism by taking over when the team needed him most," said Tanquingcen.

The Tigers were held scoreless for more than five minutes in one stretch with John Arigo finally breaking their silence with a jumper, 77-81.

The scores:

First Game

GINEBRA 89—Lampley 29, Caguioa 15, Helterbrand 14, Seigle 13, Salvacion 6, Adducul 6, Ferreria 4, Macapagal 2, Holper 0, Sotto 0, Santos 0.

COCA-COLA 81—Arigo 22, Peek 19, Carcamo 17, Mamaril 9, Miranda 6, Singson 4, Lao 2, Antonio 2, Wainwright 0, Abarrientos 0.

Quarters: 22-26, 41-42, 62-66, 89-81

AUGUST DELA CRUZ

COCA-COLA'S John Arigo tries to drive off Ginebra's Sean Lamply.

Sta. Lucia Tour begins in Cebu

CEBU—EIGHT EXCLUSIVE CLUBS INCLUDING defending overall champion Rancho Palos Verde of Davao and debuting Lakewood of Cabanatuan launch their bids tomorrow at the start of the Sta. Lucia Golf Tour 2005 here.

Alta Vista Golf and Country Club is hosting the opening stop of the Sta. Lucia Tour—a 126-hole, seven-round and three-leg series in five different courses—with the Cebuanos expected to exploit their homecourse advantage.

The others vying for the Sta. Lucia Cup are Orchard and Royale Tagaytay of Cavite, Lake Caliraya Springs of Laguna and Summit of Batangas.

This year's Tour is also backed by Samsung, Omega, Titleist-Footjoy and PAL. Partner hotels are Marco Polo (Davao), Marriot (Cebu) and The Bellevue (Manila). Unirock/Readycon and Pisanti are hole-sponsors.

Tour executive committee co-chair Vicente Santos and engineer Winfred Gob will hit the ceremonial balls with Conrad Benitez of Orchard, Anthony Sasin (Palos Verdes), Ollie Dychangco (Alta Vista), Bong de Guzman (Lakewood) and representatives of Summit Point, Lake Caliraya and Royale Tagaytay.

Splendido grand clubhouse rises

STA. LUCIA REALTY AND DEVELOPMENT INC. (SLRDI) is right on schedule with its development of a world-class grand clubhouse inside the Splendido Golf and Country Club up in Tagaytay City.

"We are fast-tracking the completion of the clubhouse, which is now 80 percent complete," said Exequiel Robles, president and CEO of SLR, project developer of the Jaka-owned Splendido. "It should be ready soon."

Upon completion, the RR Payumo + Partners'-designed grand clubhouse would complement the 18-hole Greg Norman course masterpiece because its location has a vantage view of Taal Volcano and the lake.

"These (courses and clubhouse) are part of the 62.5-hectare golf component out of the 236-hectare Splendido project," said Robles.

The clubhouse will feature facilities and amenities such as the golfers' lounge, pro shop, men's and women's locker rooms and a bag drop area. For information, visit the open house set this weekend or logon to www.staluciarealty.com.

SPORTSWATCH

Highlight player to be feted

THE ULTIMATE Fast Move award, which comes with a special prize from PSBank, will be announced during the awarding ceremonies of the 68th UAAP men's basketball tournament. The winner will be chosen from players who won the PSBank Auto Loan Fast Move award this season. The Fast Move award goes to the player who was the subject of a highlight play picked by league carrier Studio 23. The top five plays will be picked by top PSBank officers, the bank's media agency, Studio 23 and a sports personality. La Salle's Joseph Yeo leads the contenders. The winner will get a P50,000 time deposit from PSBank.

Thai spikers due today

THE TALENT-LADEN Thailand squad arrives today to compete in the Shakey's Invitational Volleyball which unfolds tomorrow at the Rizal Memorial Coliseum. The tournament serves as part of the participating teams' preparations for next month's Southeast Asian Games here with the Philippines, Indonesia and Myanmar trying to foil Thailand's bid. With four World Championship veterans, the Thais are the team to beat in the tournament sponsored by Shakey's Pizza and organized by the Philippine Volleyball Federation with Sports Vision Management Group Inc. as event coordinator. The Indon and Myanmar delegations are also arriving today.

Jao wins anew

VETERAN rider Jolet Jao of Shell Advance-Kawasaki turned back Benjo Mendoza of Speedeffex to capture the 2005 Shell Advance Superbikes crown recently at the Batangas Racing Circuit. It was the ninth superbikes crown for Jao whose big triumph in the morning race was enough to seal the title of this series sanctioned by the National Motorcycle Sports and Safety Association and sponsored by Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corp., Kilton Motors, Yokohama and Denso. He finished with 266 points against Mendoza's 243. Jao clocked 23:38.247 in the first race, 8.968 seconds ahead of Mendoza. Roderick Chua was third.

NCA 7-stag derby

TOPNOTCH cockers and breeders clash anew tonight in the championship round of the "National Cockers Association (NCA) 7-Cock Derby" at the air-conditioned Makati Coliseum. The pacesetter with three wins each are Red Creek Mt. Panamao of Boy Jiao and Rep. Iggy Arroyo, WTJ PCAP Makati Coliseum of Vice Mayor Nestor Mercado, PCAP WTJ Makati Col. of Lito Orillaza and Kampi Ni Butch of Rep. Butch Pichay, Boy de Roca and R. de Guzman. With two points apiece are the entries of Representatives Gerry "Boy" Espina, Ronnie Puno and Jing Paras, Biboy Enriquez, Gov. Ito Ynares, Jun Santiago, Patrick Antonio and Boy Jiao. Meanwhile, the fourth leg of the NCA 7-stag derby sizzles on Oct. 18 and 20. For details, call 896-3545 and 895-6475.

Fil-Am center PBL top pick

AS EXPECTED, TOYOTA OTIS-LETRAN made Fil-Am Joe Calvin Devance as the overall top pick in yesterday's draft for the 2006 PBL Heroes Cup even as the league welcomed back Hapee Toothpaste and ICTSI.

Toyota Otis-Letran coach Louie Alas said the 6-foot-7 Devance, whose mother is a Filipina, is heaven-sent for a team badly in need of a center.

After taking a leave in the last conference, both Hapee and ICTSI will be competing again when the kick-off tournament of the 24th season starts on Oct. 29 at the La Salle Green Hills.

Hapee will field NCAA runner-up Philippine Christian University while ICTSI will again lean on the core of the De La Salle Archers.

The league also accepted Far Eastern Insurance as a guest team, increasing the number of entries in the coming conference to nine.

"We welcome the return of Hapee and ICTSI," said commissioner Chino Trinidad.

Kelvin dela Peña, the NCAA rookie sensation from Mapua, was drafted No. 2 by Harbour Centre, which also got a compensatory pick in Fil-Am Robert Reyes following the departure of Gabby Espinas, Robert Sanz, Jason Castro and Joel Solis in favor of their school team PCU.

Ryan Arceo, another Fil-foreign player, was taken in as No. 3 by Magnolia Dairy Ice Cream while Japeth Aguilar, the 6-foot-7 center of Ateneo, went to Granny Goose as the No. 4 pick.

San Sebastian's Jason Ballesteros, rated No. 5, went to Montaña Pawnshop and Mapua's Tristan Veranga (No. 6) ended up with Welcoat Paints.

ICTSI tapped Colegio de San Lorenzo's Chito Jaime at No. 7, Hapee picked San Sebastian's Francis de Leon at No. 8 and Far Eastern Insurance chose Jay Robert Sierra at No. 9.

The Knights also took Adamson Jon Marc Agustin (second round) and Mark Constantino. Aside from elevating three players from UE—Earn Saquindel, Luis Palaganas and Marcelino Arellano—the Port Masters also landed Leemore Boliver from Maysun National High School.

Picked in the second round were Allen Paul Aguada (Magnolia), Mark Jonas Ababon (Granny), Arturo Atablanco (Montaña), Gilbert Cole (Welcoat), Lucas Becker (ICTSI), Floyd Decicatoria (Hapee) and Glenn Perseverance (FEI). Hapee coach Junel Baculi drafted his son, Bryan, in the fourth round.

Coach E school holds tilt

THE COACH E BASKETBALL SCHOOL will hold a special two-day tournament as its program finale where all students can showcase their enhanced form and sharpened skills.

Basketball coach Eric Altamirano, founder of Coach E and a consultant of the International Basketball Academy, said: "After 16 sessions of training and assessment, our students can finally show their newfound form and skills."

Proline Sportscenter, the local distributor of Spalding basketball and Spalding Huffy collapsible backboards, has agreed to support the Coach E Basketball School with its equipment.

Coach E's next batch of classes, to be held in Makati and Quezon City, will start on Oct. 11.

Aside from Altamirano, the school's trainers list includes IBA President Xavy Nunag, two-time PBA MVP Benjie Paras, Ronnie Magsanoc, Joey Guanio and Mon Jose.

For inquiries, call 6311195 and 09217562639 or e-mail iba_phil@yahoo.com.

DADO Doctor is one of the finalists in the Spalding-Coach E 3-Point Shootout.

Red Ribbon meet kicks off in Rizal

THE RED RIBBON U-15 CHAMPIONSHIPS kicked off recently at the San Jose football field in Montalban, Rizal, with the six favored teams winning their matches.

Angono football club beat Morong 6-0, Teresa nipped Burgos 1-0, San Jose Annex dumped Antipolo, 4-0, Amityville FC whipped Macabud ES, 3-0, MFC bested Burgos IV FC, 2-0, and top-seeded San Jose FC trounced Manggahan FC, 2-0.

Edmon Domingo, Red Ribbon's special projects manager, and Ed Formoso, the overall event coordinator, witnessed the opening games.

The Rizal leg is organized by the Football Association of Rizal (FAR) headed by lawyer Dino Tanjuatco. Tournament head Mario Garrovillo is general secretary.

The event is supported by Montalban Mayor Pedro Cuerpo and Councilor Alberto Carasco.

The PFF-Red Ribbon U-15 Championships, now on its third season, will be staged between July and February by over 29 provincial football associations.

MORALES: Victorious in Italy.

Morales dominates races

ROSARIO, BATANGAS—Multifaceted racer Renan Morales has done it again.

Fresh from a swashbuckling show in 360 Madela Challenge-Alfa Romeo Grand Touring at the Florano Racetrack in Bologna, Italy, Morales stamped his class at the Batangas Racing Circuit, where he bagged six trophies, including five first-place finishes to once again become the day's winningest racer.

Morales captured four trophies via another sweep of the two races of the Petron National Junior Touring Car series and the Philippine National Touring Car Championships in the event sanctioned by the Automobile Association of the Philippines.

"I really went out of my way to win every race that I was entered into," said Morales. "It would be a shame if I lose in local races after that breakthrough win in Italy. I was really pumped up all day."

Morales, who is backed by Paragon Brokerage Corp, RPM Racing, Bridgestone and Shift Racing, also ruled the afternoon races of the Petron and PNTCC.

Perpetual-Molino prevails

PERPETUAL Help-Molino captured two chess titles in the 6th Southern Luzon Colleges and Universities Athletic Association (SLCUAA) recently, winning the high school girls and college women's diadems at the expense of Colegio San Agustin and STI-Sta. Rosa, respectively. The Altas high school girls' chessers, composed of Chona Cruz and Fatima Yambot, dumped their CSA rivals Bea Naval and Maxene Edares in the finals to clinch the title. The Altas lady woodpushers Jezette Agunos and Carol Mae Osia bested STI-Sta. Rosa's Mara Joy Baltazar and Mary Ann Recto to capture the crown.

AF3 races highlights on television soon

YOUNG GUNS TYSON TY AND DAdo Peña and other drivers in this year's Asian Formula Three series are going to ve visible on television soon.

Starting this Sunday (Oct. 9), and every Sunday thereafter this month, highlights of the races at the Batangas Racing Circuit, Zhuhai International Circuit in China and the Sentul International Circuit in Indonesia will be shown on Studio 23 from noon to 1 p.m.

The race broadcast, backed by PLDT myPAD, includes interviews and special features on AF3 drivers, led by Sy and Pena who are running second and fifth, respectively, in the overall standings.

Studio 23 will also broadcast live the last two races—Rounds 11 and 12—of the series on Nov. 6 at BRC, with Sy, of Speedtech Asia, out to duplicate his golden double last month in Indonesia in his bid to snatch the overall crown from Indonesian leader Ananda Mikola of Fastron Racing with Threebond. The first live broadcast starts at 10:30 a.m., with the second live feed set at 2:30 p.m.

Asian Formula Three Corp. chairm Eddie Pena worked for the broadcast of this year's races with ABS-CBN official Jojo Neri Estacio to enable racing fans to watch the exploits of top Filipino drivers against their foreign counterparts.

"Racing fans can really appreciate the exploits of our drivers through this broadcast of the races on Studio 23, said Pena, whose son Dado, of Team Goddard-Minardi Team Asia has 75 points for fifth place." They will get to know our drivers better, how they prepare for the races, how they deal with adversity, how they deal with victory and defeat. This gives the human side of our drivers."

Mikola, who has won five rounds of the 12-leg series so far, leads the way with 127 points, followed by Sy with 101 and Briton James Winslow of Shell Helix Kinetic PCSO who has 100 points. Ireland's John O'Hara, Winslow's teammate, is running fourth with 75 points, with last year's overall winner, Australian Christian Jones of Christian Jones Motorsport, running sixth with 72 points.

Log on to www.asianf3.net and www.pldtmypad.net for updates.

NEWLY accredited members of the Basketball Association of the Philippines (BAP)-National Basketball Coaches Commission in Tacloban City with officers of the BAP and NBCC. Seating (from left) are NBCC chair David Zamar, BAP secretary general Graham Lim, NBCC regional chair Dr. Edward Chua and Dr. Lucrecio Calo, BAP Region 8 director. Standing at left is NBCC vice chair Paul Avincula.

HONG KONG AMATEURS

Bondad falls behind by 2

FRANCES BONDAD BLEW A TWO-UNDER card as she lost her putting touch, settling for a two-over par 73 to fall two strokes off Chinese Zhou Xiao Xuan at the start of the Aquascutum Hong Kong Ladies Open Amateur Championship yesterday at the Hong Kong Golf Club's New Course in Fanling.

Bondad, oozing with confidence following her victory in last week's Philippine Amateur Golf Championships in Bacolod, appeared headed for an explosive start when she went two-under after five holes.

But the 17-year-old spearhead of the RP squad to next month's SEA Games in Manila failed to sustain her momentum and struggled the rest of the way on a course that played longer than its par-71 layout.

Poor putting also marred not only Bondad's round but also those of the other RP bets with Anya Tanpinco and Lora Roberto settling for 74s and Regine de Guzman and Paulina Sotto carding 76 and 77, respectively.

"The team just couldn't make the putts," said national team coach Bong Lopez. "The course also played a little longer that's why most of them had to use woods for their second shots."

BONDAD

Zhou took advantage of Bondad's shaky stint by matching par 71 as she took a one-stroke lead over the ace Filipina shotmaker and Thailand's Porani Chutichai, runner-up here last year.

The three-day tournament ending tomorrow serves as part of the RP team's buildup for the SEA Games slated Nov. 27-Dec. 5.

Meanwhile, the RP men's team opens defense of its crown in the Aquascutum Hong Kong Men's Amateur Championship slated Oct. 26-29, also at Fanling.

Jay Bayron, Jun Bernis and Erwin Vinluan combined for 420 to win last year's team title.

Peping in Golf Show

PHILIPPINE OLYMPIC COMMITTEE president Jose "Peping" Cojuangco will be the guest of honor when the Golf Distributors Association of the Philippines unveils the 10th edition of the Philippine International Golf Show tomorrow at the Megatrade Hall of SM Megamall in Mandaluyong.

Also appearing in the opening ceremonies set at 10 a.m. are officials of the GDAP led by its president Lovell Gopez and this year's exhibit chair Rommel Baquial.

The exhibit is sponsored by INQUIRER Golf, Rudy Project, Pixografx, and Swing Magazine with Vantage as registration system provider. Radio partners are Killer Bee, Wave 89.1, Jam 88.3, Magic 89.9, 103.5 K-Lite, and 99.5 RT.

For details, visit www.philippineinternationalgolfshow.com or call 7596680 or 8451324 or email golfshow@fairsandmore.com.ph.

The exhibitors: Acro Golf, Aetna Enterprises, American Technologies, Atendido Marketing, Ayala Greenfield Estates, BCS Computer Systems, Besa's Shoes, Bravo Restaurant, Casa del Mar, Casino Filipino, Cathay Land Inc., Citibank Creditcard Center, Clark Pamham Manufacturing Golf Corp., Cornerstore, Direct Link Insurance, Dunlop Slazenger International, Dynamic Sports, Electrobus, Fitness First, Fontana Leisure Park/Fort Ilocandia Golf & Country Club, GG&A Club Shares, G&W Club Shares, Gainers Marketing, Golf Pro, Golf Gallery, Golf King (Kaizen), Humor Post, INQUIRER Golf, Kart Plaza, Lexber, Master Sports Corp.(Mizuno), Ottica Corporation (FURY Active Eyewear), Pacsports (Nike Golf), Pinnacle Distributors, Pixografx, Philippine Tourism Authority, Polar Mines, Pearl of the Pacific, Planet Sports (Callaway), Pinnacle Spa, Puerto Del Sol, Rudy Project, Rush Birdie, Schering Plough (Coppertone), Sta. Lucia Realty, Swing Magazine, The Golfers Club Inc., The Manila Times Golf Academy, The Rivera Golf Club, Verde Mar, Unilab Nutritionals (Enervon Prime) and Wilson Sports.

It's Joey's move; the other Solar

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

GOOD ENOUGH.

I mean, Fiba has finally appreciated the efforts of Philippine Olympic Committee (POC) president Peping Cojuangco to put Philippine basketball in the right perspective. This is the reason a memorandum of agreement (MOA) has been signed between Peping and Patrick Baumann, the Fiba secretary general, to form a new basketball association.

I'm glad that Baumann had finally knocked some sense into his head.

Until Peping did that gargantuan mission to fly to Geneva and present the side of the POC on the basketball row that's been raging for almost five months now, Baumann had been almost unwavering in his stand to suspend Philippine basketball indefinitely while recognizing only the Basketball Association of the Philippines (BAP) as the rightful body representing basketball in the Philippines.

With the signing of the MOA, there's now the so-called light at the end of the tunnel in so far as the inclusion of basketball in the November SEA Games is concerned.

I read in the papers that Joey Lina, the BAP president, wasn't budging and would first get in touch with Baumann before making a stand on the matter of forming a new basketball association.

It's Joey's right to do that and no one must blame him for that. Always, get it from the so-called horse's mouth. Joey is a lawyer and lawyers just don't say this or that until they are sure their statements are backed up by concrete proof. In this instance, the best proof is for Joey to get it straight from Patrick Baumann.

You see, before the historic Peping-Patrick meeting, Fiba had openly said it was recognizing Joey's BAP as the only basketball association in the Philippines. This came after the POC had expelled the BAP and next recognized the Philippine Basketball Federation (PBF) headed by Moying Martelino.

The papers had said Moying was amenable to the dissolution of the PBF to give way to a new association acceptable to the Fiba.

If true, hep-hep hooray to Moying, a man I've always known as level-headed, broad-minded and always open to things that would redound to the overall welfare of Philippine basketball.

I wish Joey would do the same—detach himself from the clutches of the BAP and align with all basketball stakeholders in the formation of a new association geared toward unification and the eventual inclusion of basketball in the SEA Games.

C'mon, Joey. If just for once, be a hero to this basketball nation now almost bereft of heroes.

KJs are for the brain-damaged only.

***

Here's a glass to the Philippine Army Shooting Team for bagging the overall championship in the recently concluded 15th Asian Armies Rifle Meet in Brunei.

The ladies pistol team of the Reebok-powered RP squad pocketed both the individual and team gold medals anew as the Filipinos set their sights on a Grand Slam campaign next year.

Not many know it, but Jennifer de Belen is proving to be the military's best shooter, capturing her second title for the second straight year. The carbine team ruled the falling plates competition as the Philippine Army Team improved on its second overall finish last year by capturing the overall crown.

***

Who said Solar Entertainment is into sports only?

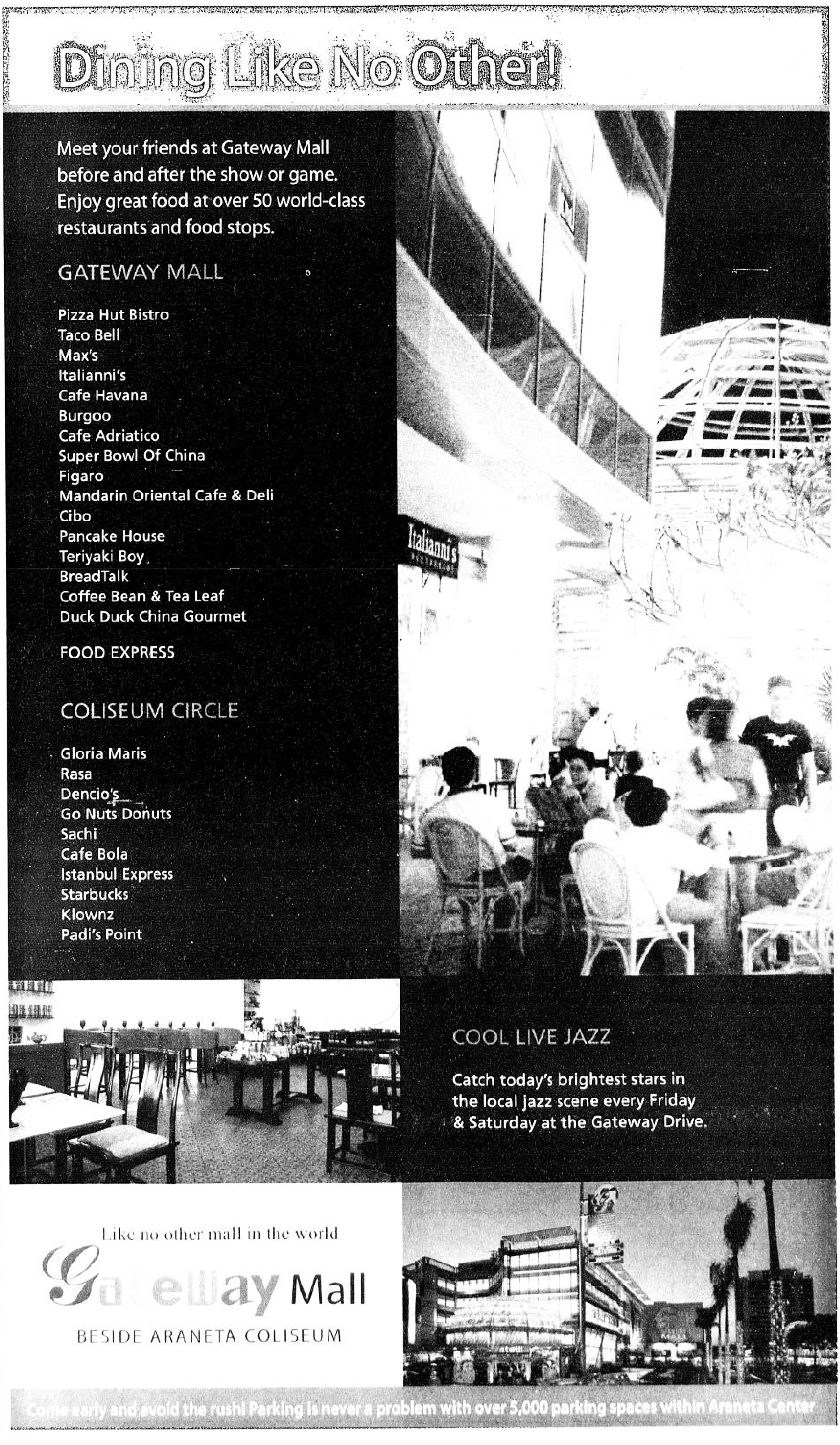
Solar, manned mainly by the Tieng brothers and Pay Per View pioneer Dennis Uy, is also very much into music. That's why tomorrow, it is again staging what's being ballyhooed as another blockbuster concert at the Araneta Coliseum: "The Beach Boys Live!"

With Luke Pasiliao now as one of the prime movers at Solar, I agree that another sellout crowd could again be in the offing.

The smashing success of "The Cascades" show some three weeks back at the Big Dome was another feather in Solar's cap. Steve O'Neal, that famous dzRJ disc jockey, said he was not stopping at bringing more Sixties hit groups to the country in the coming months.

So don't look now but after The Beach Boys (previously, the Searchers, Gordon of Peter & Gordon fame, and Chad & Jeremy were here), Solar has lined up Gary Lewis and The Playboys (hopefully they'll be here by December), and then The Zombies in February.

Yeah, keep 'em comin' as they're surefire respite from the cantankerous hullabaloo in our sullied political landscape today.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Beach Boys rock Big Dome with 'Good Vibrations' tomorrow

BEACH BOYS

THE BEACH BOYS, AMERICA'S hottest rock and roll band in the 1960s, arrive today for a big concert tomorrow at the Araneta Coliseum in Cubao, Quezon City.

"The Beach Boys Live in Manila!" is a one-night-only gig produced by Renen de Guia's Ovation Productions and Solar Entertainment, and is part of band's ongoing world tour.

Among the biggest Beach Boys hits are "Surfin," "Surfin' USA," "Surfer Girl," "Fun, Fun," "I Get Around," "California Girls," "Help Me Rhonda," "Barbara Anna," "Good Vibrations," "Wouldn't It be Nice," "Rock and Roll Music" and "Kokomo."

The current group consists of Mike Love (composer and first cousin of originals Brian, Dennis and Carl Wilson), lead vocals; Bruce Johnston, vocals/keyboards; Mike Kowalski; drums; Chris Farmer, bass/vocals; Tim Bonhomme, keyboards/vocals; John Cowsill, keyboards/vocals/percussion; and Scott Totten,guitar/vocals.

Call 911-5555 for tickets.

SHOW TIME

Tonight

Robert Seña and Isay Alvarez in "Love You, Hate You, Love You," at Merk's

The U.P Singing Ambassadors in a homecoming concert at the Church of the Risen Lord, UP Diliman; 7 p.m.

8-Track at Tavern on the Square, Greenbelt 3

ROBERT Seña and Isay Alvarez

Elderly Brothers at RJ Guitar Bar; 9 p.m. Call 899-1658.

Silk at Suburbia

Rizza Navales at Mugen in Metrowalk, Pasig

K and the Boxers at Ratsky Malate

Mishka Adams at Mati, Rockwell Powerplant Mall

Tomorrow

"The Beach Boys Live in Manila" at the Araneta Coliseum. Call Ticketnet at 911-5555.

Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis or ALS awareness fund-raising concert featuring Sugarfree, Cambio, Cueshe, Silent Sanctuary and Family Birth Control at the UP Bahay ng Alumni, UP, Diliman, QC; 8 p.m.

DJ Elian Habayeb and DJ Mark Calijentes feature house music at M Café located at the ground floor of the Ayala Museum, Greenbelt 4; 10 p.m. Call 757-3000.,

Fat Session at Tavern on the Square, Greenbelt 3

RJ and Friendswith the Members Band at RJ Guitar Bar; 9 p.m. Call 899-1658.

Jimmy Bondoc, Red Clay , Paolo Santos and Pido come together for a fundraising concert at Oasis, 169 Aurora Blvd., San Juan. Show starts at 8 p.m.

SOUTH BORDER

Twisted Pair with Ntwine at Suburbia

The Sexbomb at Mugen in Metrowalk, Pasig

K and the Boxers at Ratsky Morato

South Border with Iya Villania and Arnee Hidalgo at SM North Edsa Cinema 1; 8 p.m.

October 8

5th !Fiestai Spanish Festival for Culture and the Arts featuring classical guitarist Armando Orbón and jazz pianist Isaac Turienzo. The show entitled "Between Two Shores" will be at the Carlos P. Romulo Auditorium, RCBC Plaza, Ayala Ave. Makati; 7:30 p.m.

Ntwine at Tavern on the Square, Greenbelt 3

Wiseguys with Art Band at Suburbia

The CompanY at Mugen in Metrowalk, Pasig

K and the Boxers at Soundstage Cainta

October 9

Cueshe at SM Southmall; 5 p.m.

Templar at Suburbia

October 10

"Brazilian Night" with Toti Fuentes at Merk's

Freestyle at Tavern on the Square, Greenbelt 3

Retrostars at RJ Guitar Bar; 9 p.m. Call 899-1658.

K Brosas of K and the Boxers

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3 (DOLBY) DUBAI PG13
4 (DOLBY) INTO THE BLUE PG13
PREMIERE
(DOLBY) TRANSPORTER 2 PG13

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2 (SDDS) HISTORY OF VIOLENCE
3 (DTS) PERFECT MAN
4 (GOLD DTS) THE TRANSPORTER-2
5 (GOLD DOLBY) TIM BURTON'S CORPSE BRIDE
6 (GOLD SDDS) INTO THE BLUE
7 (GOLD DOLBY) 40 YEARS OLD VIRGIN
8 DUBAI
9 DUBAI
10 LAND OF THE DEAD

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Cinema 2000 Waltermart
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2 RED EYE
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CINEMA 2000
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THE 40 YR OLD VIRGIN 12:10 / 2:30 / 4:50 / 7:10 / 9:30	DUBAI 1:40 / 4:10 / 6:40 / 9:10
CORPSE BRIDE 12:20 / 2:30 / 4:40 / 6:50 / 9:00	TRANSPORTER 2 1:30 / 3:30 / 5:30 / 7:30 / 9:30
A HISTORY OF VIOLENCE 12:40 / 2:50 / 5:00 / 7:10 / 9:20	PERFECT CATCH 1:30 / 4:00 / 6:30 / 9:00
UNDISCOVERED 12:40 / 2:50 / 5:00 / 7:10 / 9:20	LAND OF THE DEAD 12:20 / 2:30 / 4:40 / 6:50 / 9:00

ALI MALL CINEMAS

① DUBAI 12:30 / 3:00 / 5:30 / 8:00	④ THE 40 YR OLD VIRGIN 12:00 R4 / 1:20 / 3:40 / 6:00 / 8:20
② INTO THE BLUE 12:30 / 3:00 / 5:30 / 8:00	⑤ THE DESCENT
③ TRANSPORTER 2 12:30 / 2:30 / 4:30 / 6:30 / 8:30	DOLBY DIGITAL dts SDDS

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Oct 6 Thu ADMU vs Adu Wom 11 am UP vs DLSZ Jrs 1 pm FINALS GAME 2: DLSU vs FEU Srs 3:30 pm
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'A handsome man, a gentleman'

Gloria Romero reminisces with friends at husband Juancho Gutierrez's wake

By Jocelyn Valle, *Contributor*
Photos by Lyn Rillon

GLORIA Romero with Charo Santos-Concio, ABS-CBN executive vice president and head for Entertainment

WITH Barbara Perez, Delia Razon and Daisy Romualdez

"A HANDSOME MAN, A GENTLEman, a man of few words" was how movie queen Gloria Romero described his leading man on and off screen, Juancho Gutierrez, who died of multiple organ failure last Sunday after a five-year battle with diabetes. He was 73.

Gloria recalled Juancho as a versatile actor who could do both comedy and drama. "But not dancing and singing, though he had the voice," she told INQUIRER Entertainment on Monday night at the wake in Loyola Memorial Chapels, Guadalupe.

One of her best friends, actress Daisy Romualdez, recounted that the couple first met while doing "Hindi Basta Basta": "Na-love at first sight *si* Gloria! She didn't like talkative men, and Juancho was very quiet. When he courted her, I totally approved."

Daisy, who had worked with Juancho in "Kaming Mga Talyada," often chaperoned the pair on dates.

SAMPAGUITA Pictures matriarch, Azucena Vera-Perez and Dolor Guevarra

Gloria and Juancho were wed on Sept. 24, 1960 at the Santuario de San Antonio in Forbes Park Footage from the rites was featured in their movie, "Sumpaan Natin."

'Cool' dad

They separated 12 years after, but got back together after Juancho suffered a stroke in 2000.

They have one daughter, Maritess, an accomplished chef and single mother. She remembered her dad as being "cool" and fun to be with. "That's why he was irritable about being bed-ridden," she said. "My mom cared for him non-stop. She is such a good person. I doff my hat to her."

Juancho's remains were cremated yesterday.

At the wake last Monday were contemporaries Susan Roces, Delia Razon, Barbara Perez and Luz Valdez. Also Sampaguita matriarch Azucena Vera-Perez, who came with daughter Marichu, and ABS-CBN bigwigs Charo Santos-Concio, Malou Santos and Olivia Lamasan; filmmakers Maryo J. de los Reyes and Behn Cervantes, actor Tirso Cruz III, comedian Ai-Ai de las Alas, singer Jamie Rivera, columnist-talent manager Ethel Ramos and Ricky Reyes, who made Gloria an image model for his chain of beauty salons.

DID YOU KNOW...

FANTASIA Barrino

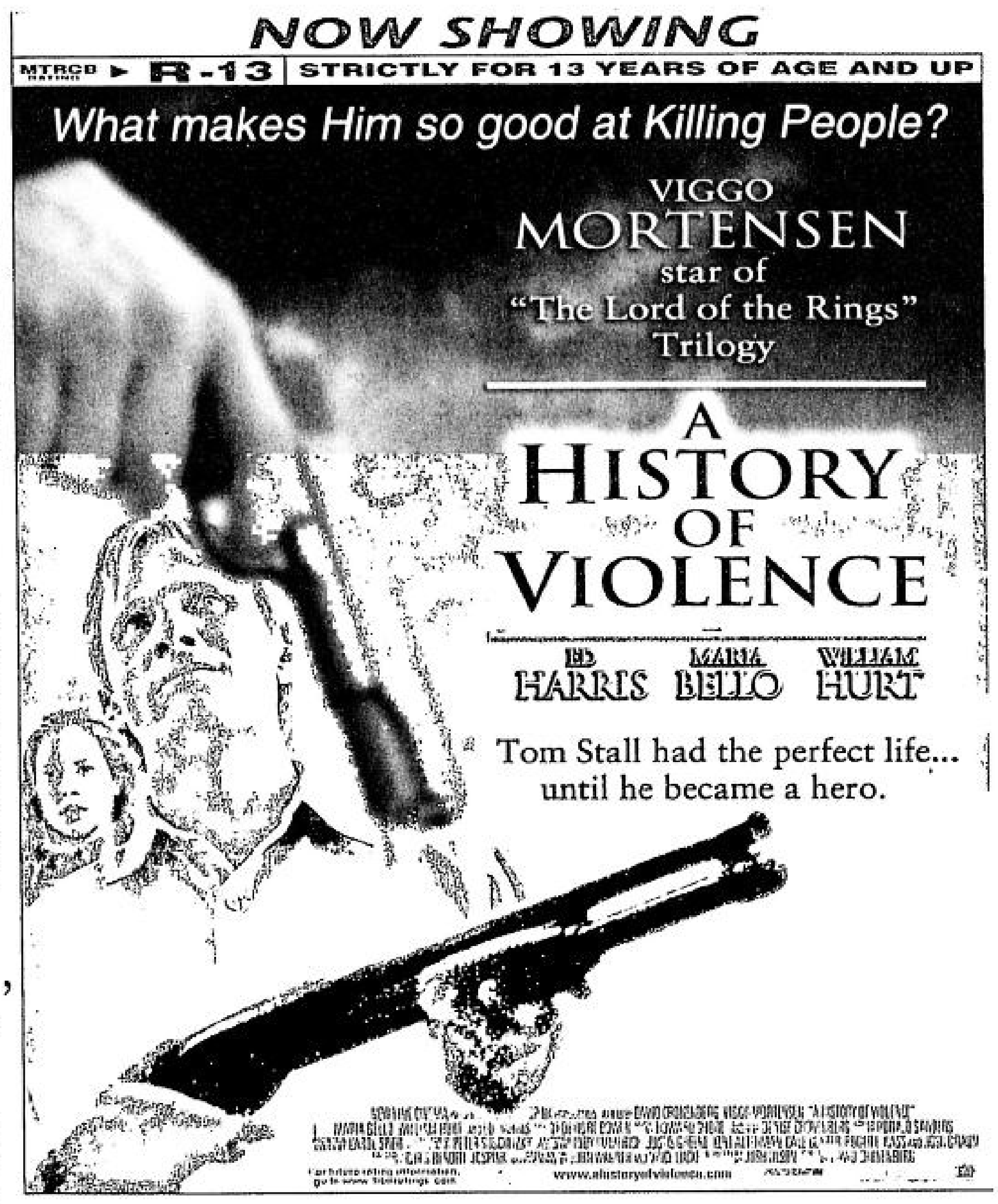
'Illiterate,' boxed in

NEW YORK— "American Idol" winner Fantasia Barrino reveals in her memoirs that she is functionally illiterate and had to fake her way through scripted portions of the popular talent search last year.

"You're illiterate to just about everything. You don't want to misspell," Fantasia told ABC's "20/20." "That ... kept me in a box."

The 21-year-old R&B singer said she signed record deals and contracts that she couldn't read. But the hardest part, she said, was not being able to read to Zion, her 4-year-old daughter. She said she was now learning to read with tutors.

In "Life is Not a Fairy Tale," dictated to a freelance writer, Fantasia also said she was raped in her early teens by a classmate. She quit school and became an unwed mother at 17. *AP*



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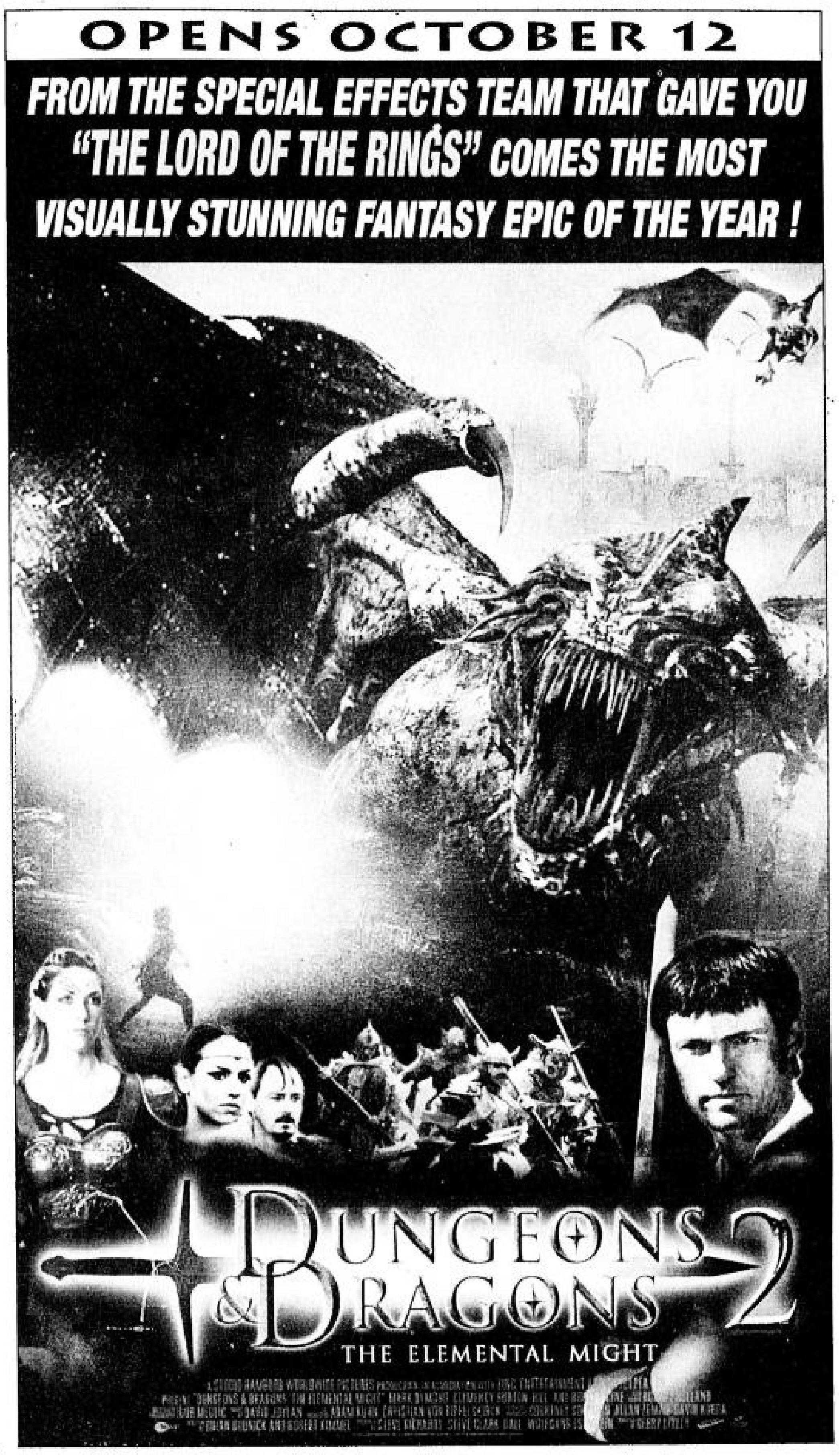

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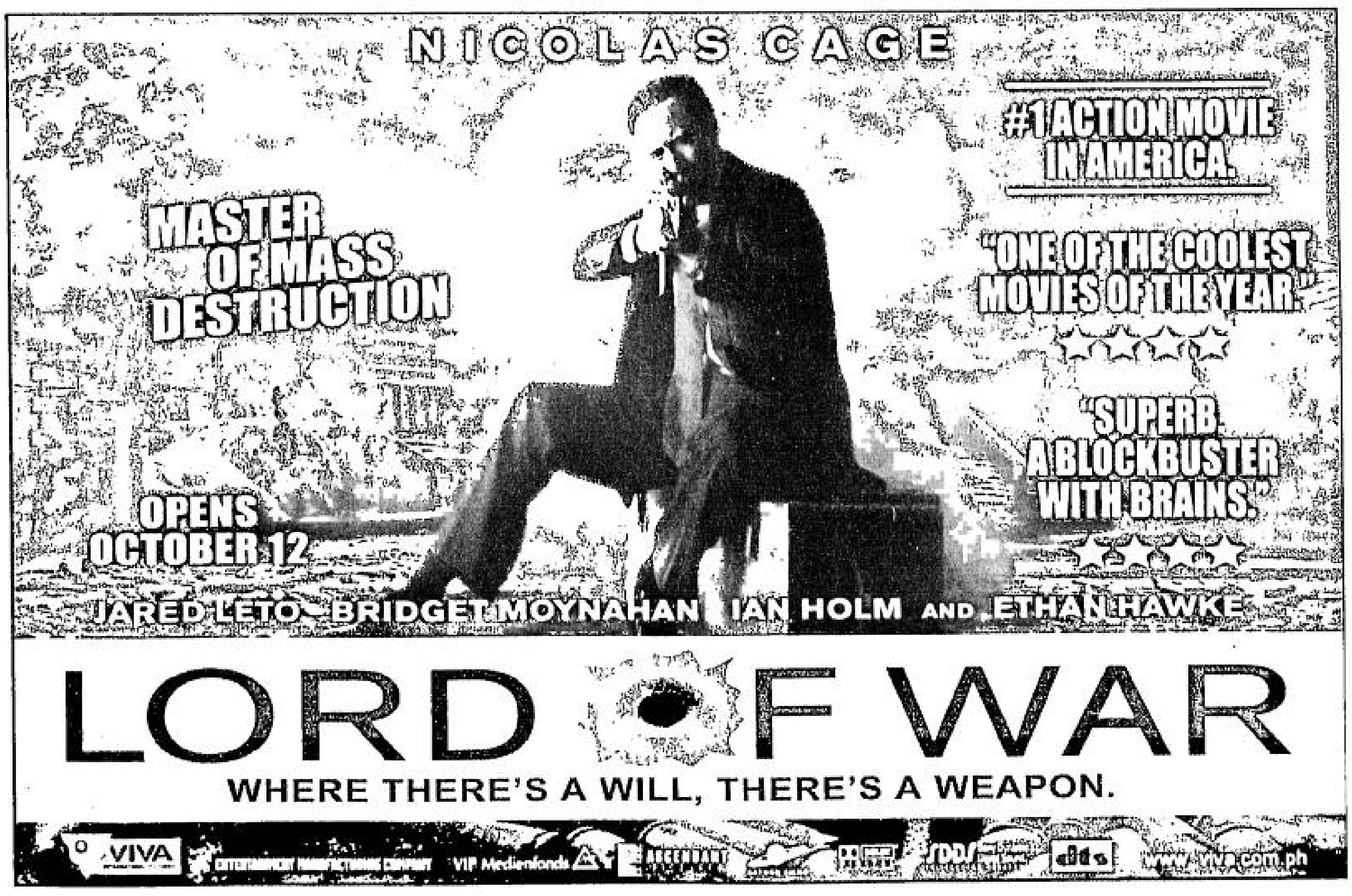

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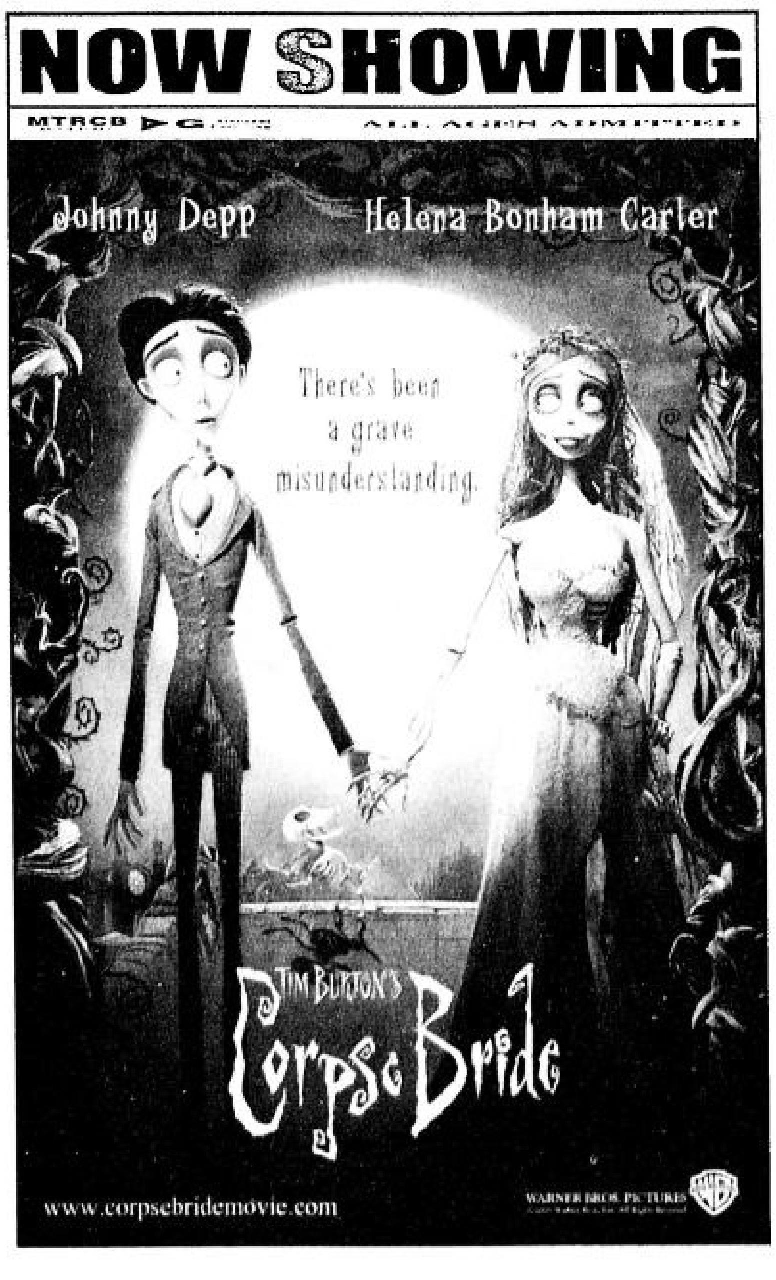

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VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

HOST: WERE YOU EXCITED WHEN OUR BET did so well in the international competition?

Guest: Of course! It was so exciting to see her on TV, greeted with hundreds of enthusiasm!

(How—enthusiastic!)

***

Host: What is this cream and alcohol treatment good for?

Guest: With vigorous brushing, it's good for the exploration of dead skin.

(Like going on a skin safari!)

***

Host: What is the magic ingredient here that makes it so effective?

Guest: It has national oils!

(The perfect solution to the nation's oil crisis!)

***

Host: What did you find touching about the TV coverage of the aftermath of the Katrina hurricane?

Guest: The blind man who didn't see his dog until three days after the hurricane!

(The blind man sees? It's a miracle!)

***

Host: Who will be the beneficiaries of your concert?

Guest: Not just the military victims, but also all the other victims of human rights.

(*Ay*, victims of human rights!)

***

Host: We've come to the end of our show—

Guest: Can I plug? Next Thursday will be the launching of my new book!

(*Kulit.*)

***

Newscaster: More terrorist news: In Iraq yesterday, another bomber blew himself!

> Host: What is the magic ingredient that makes it so effective? Guest: It has national oils!

(Until he was as big as a weather balloon?)

***

Host: After applying the paint on our faces, what should we do?

Guest: After the party, when you don't need the paint anymore, just take it off with soup and water.

(You've just ended up with soup on your face!)

***

Host: How was our RP team's performance in the recent sports fest abroad?

Guest: Objectively, it was not up the par.

(*Ay*, up the par!)

***

Newscaster: *Samantala, bumagsak bahagya ang halaga ng ... bagyong Rita sa Estados Unidos!*

(That's what happens when the texts of two different news items gets jumbled up!)

***

Newscaster: The brunt of the new typhoon was borne by the state of Sexas.

How can you think of ... Sexas at a time like this?

***

Host: What songs do you sing?

Guest: All sorts—international.

Host: Oh really? For example, are Japanese songs part of your *repitar*? *Repitoir*? How do you say it?

(Repertoire—and, as a TV host, you're supposed to know that!)

Spanish 'Fiesta' Treats

HIGHLIGHTS of the ongoing Spanish festival for culture and the arts:

In dance, Oct. 11 at the CCP, contemporary flamenco's most famous star, Sara Baras, performs in "Sueños." Photography ongoing until Oct. 31, "150 Years of Photography in Spain;" and a "Manila, My Manila" photo contest.

Art: "Paint a Nook of Intramuros" on-the-spot painting tilt at Puerta Real Garden.

Gastronomy: Spanish Food Festival at the Hyatt Regency Manila.

Theater: Antonio Muñoz Molina's "Sepaharda" at On Stage, Greenbelt 1 on Oct. 25.

Film: Until Oct. 16 at Greenbelt 1 Cinema, the Spanish Film Festival screens 26 movies.

Music: Guitarist Jorge Orozco performed yesterday in Cebu City. Classical guitarist Armando Orbon and jazz guitarist Isaac Turienzo perform on Oct. 8 at the Carlos P. Romulo Auditorium, RCBC Plaza.

Call Instituto Cervantes, 526-1482, or visit http.//manila.cervantes.es.

'Noypi'

HIP HOP rapper Jhego has released his second album, titled "Noypi." He wrote nine of the album's 10 tracks—"Malinamnam," "Kabataan," "Itaas ang kamay," "Miss na Miss kita," "Lasapin Mo," Titik O," "Tama Na," etc. Log on to www. alphamusic.ph.

Urbandub

BASED in Cebu, the Urbandub band recently bagged the title "Moto-Alert Local Choice Artist." The band—Gabby Alipe, John Dinipol, Lalay Lim and Jerros Dolino—has also won NU 107 Rock Awards, like Song of the Year for "Soul Searching" in 2003 and Album of the Year for "Influence" in 2004.

When MTV Hijack was held in Cebu, it also served as the launch for Motorola E398 Hijacked by MTV, which delivers a brilliant cool and rebellious mobile experience. It rewrites the rules for ringtones, alerts, screensavers and SMS/MMS templates.

Wish I could . . .

From page A24

from the ratings. Besides, *kami ang* original. Of course there's pressure, but we welcome it. Competition benefits the viewers." My mom used to tell me, "Imitation is the highest form of flattery."

I admire the way **Richard Merk** handles the bands in his bar/bistro, Merk's Greenbelt. He does not believe in auditioning bands, something that's de rigeur for most bars. He explains: "I know what it's like for struggling musicians. I don't have the heart to make a band play for free, just to tell them later on that they didn't make the grade. What I do is, when I hear about a band, I go watch their gig, sitting quietly in a corner. After their set, I approach them and invite them to play in my bar." I must say that Richard's good heart (he organizes fund-raisers for colleagues in need) is Merk's house specialty!

Reunion concert

THE WINNERS of "Star in a Million" are having a reunion concert in San Diego, California on Oct. 7 and in Los Angeles on Oct. 8. **Erik Santos, Christian Bautista, Sheryn Regis, Frenchie Dy** and **Jerome Sala** will be joined by **Marissa Sanchez** and **Divo Bayer.**

The concert is produced by **"Tito Al" Chu** under the Marissa and ABC entertainment banner. Tito Al is new in the concert scene, yet he has already been tagged "producer of hits." The two shows he produced before in California—"Night of the Champions" and "Return of the Champions"—were sold out.

Cook your heart out

IN THE HEART of Market Market last Sept. 17 and 18 was held the 3rd Century Tuna's Culinary Meet, a gathering of different types of people bound together by the love of good food. Housewives and students challenged one another with original recipes using Century Tuna.

Boy Abunda and **John Lapus**, and co-host **Ayet Evangelista**, Century Tuna's group product manager, lightened up the otherwise serious battle. The Akafellas and Fat Session provided entertaining music.

(E-mail wateringholeshangrila@yahoo.com or dollyanne@citykartracing.com)

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October 4-7 & 11-15

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October 5-9 2005
PODIUM 6:30pm
October 7-12
Megamall
[illegible]
October 12 2005
Megamall
October 12 & 23
SM [illegible]

SM BIG EVENTS
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October 9, 2005
9:00 AM

SM moviefest
THE LORD OF WAR
October 9, 2005
Megamall 7:30pm
WALLACE & GROMIT
October 9, 2005
Megamall 1:00pm
DEUCE BIGALOW EUROPEAN GIGOLO
October 10, 2005
Megamall [illegible]
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1 TRANSPORTER 2
02:00FS/02:25MF/04:35/06:45
08:20LFS/09:00LMF/10:35END
2 PERFECT CATCH
02:00FS/02:25MF/04:35/06:45
08:25LFS/09:00LMF/10:40END

MEGAMALL
TRANSPORTER 2
11:00FS/11:15MF/01:20/03:30/05:40/07:50
09:30LFS/10:00LMF/11:25END

CEBU (032) 231-3876
1 BROTHERS GRIMM
12:00FS/12:10MF/02:30/04:50/07:10
09:10LFS/09:30LMF/11:30END
2 INTO THE BLUE
12:00FS/12:20MF/02:10/04:00/05:50/07:40
09:05LFS/09:30LMF/10:55END
3 DARK WATER
11:50FS/12:00MF/01:54/03:48/05:42/07:36
09:06LFS/09:30LMF/11:00END

METRO MANILA

SM MEGAMALL
INTO THE BLUE
2 HISTORY OF VIOLENCE
3 TRANSPORTER 2
4 LAND OF THE DEAD
5 TIM BURTON'S CORPSE BRIDE
UNDISCOVERED
7 40 YEAR OLD VIRGIN
8 DARK WATER
DUBAI
10 TRUMPETS: LITTLE MERMAID
PERFECT MAN
12 BLADE OF THE ROSE

SM CITY FAIRVIEW
PERFECT MAN
2 BLADE OF THE ROSE
DARK WATER
4 INTO THE BLUE
5 TRANSPORTER 2
UNDISCOVERED
HISTORY OF VIOLENCE
8 LOVESTRUCK
DUBAI
BROTHERS GRIMM
LAND OF THE DEAD
12 40 YEAR OLD VIRGIN

SM NORTH EDSA
INTO THE BLUE
40 YEAR OLD VIRGIN
DUBAI
4 LAND OF THE DEAD
UNDISCOVERED
TIM BURTON'S CORPSE BRIDE
TRANSPORTER 2
HISTORY OF VIOLENCE

SM CITY MANILA
40 YEAR OLD VIRGIN
TRANSPORTER 2
LAND OF THE DEAD
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5 TIM BURTON'S CORPSE BRIDE
UNDISCOVERED
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8 DARK WATER
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10 BROTHERS GRIMM
11 BLADE OF THE ROSE
12 HISTORY OF VIOLENCE

SM CITY STA MESA
INTO THE BLUE
2 UNDISCOVERED
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4 40 YEAR OLD VIRGIN
5 DUBAI
6 PERFECT MAN
LAND OF THE DEAD
8 BLADE OF THE ROSE
9 HISTORY OF VIOLENCE
BROTHERS GRIMM

SM CITY SOUTHMALL
INTO THE BLUE
TIM BURTON'S CORPSE BRIDE
3 DUBAI
4 HISTORY OF VIOLENCE
5 UNDISCOVERED
6 40 YEAR OLD VIRGIN
TRANSPORTER 2
8 LAZARUS CHILD
9 LAND OF THE DEAD
10 LOVESTRCUK

SM SAN LAZARO
INTO THE BLUE
2 HISTORY OF VIOLENCE
3 TRANSPORTER 2
4 40 YEAR OLD VIRGIN
5 UNDISCOVERED
5 DUBAI

SM SUPERCENTER SUCAT
1 PERFECT MAN
2 INTO THE BLUE
3 DUBAI
4 TRANSPORTER 2

SM CITY BICUTAN
INTO THE BLUE
DUBAI
PERFECT MAN
4 TRANSPORTER 2

LUZON

SM CITY PAMPANGA
BROTHERS GRIMM
2 INTO THE BLUE
3 A SOUND OF THUNDER
4 LAND OF THE DEAD
5 BLADE OF THE ROSE
6 DUBAI

SM CITY BACOOR
1 LOVESTRUCK
2 LAND OF THE DEAD
3 INTO THE BLUE
4 40 YEAR OLD VIRGIN
5 TRANSPORTER 2
DUBAI
7 HISTORY OF VIOLENCE
8 BLADE OF THE ROSE

SM CITY DASMARINAS
1 40 YEAR OLD VIRGIN
2 PERFECT CATCH
3 DUBAI
4 BROTHERS GRIMM

SM CITY LUCENA
1 DUBAI
2 TRUTH ABOUT LOVE
3 CINDERELLA MAN
4 THE CROW 4: WICKED PRAYER

SM CITY BAGUIO
1 SISTERHOOD
2 LAND OF THE DEAD
3 BROTHERS GRIMM
4 DUBAI

SM CITY MARILAO
1 A SOUND OF THUNDER
2 LAND OF THE DEAD
3 DUBAI
4 THE CROW 4: WICKED PRAYER

SM CITY BATANGAS
1 DUBAI
BROTHERS GRIMM
3 DARK WATER
4 THE CAVE

VISAYAS AND MINDANAO

SM CITY CEBU
1 BROTHERS GRIMM
2 INTO THE BLUE
3 DARK WATER
4 PERFECT MAN
5 THE CROW 4: WICKED PRAYER
6 THE JACKET
7 DUBAI
8 LAND OF THE DEAD

SM CITY ILOILO
1 BROTHERS GRIMM
2 RESERVED
3 DUBAI
4 DARK WATER
5 PERFECT CATCH
6 A SOUND OF THUNDER
7 RESERVED
8 LAND OF THE DEAD

SM CITY DAVAO
PERFECT CATCH
DARK WATER
DUBAI
4 LAND OF THE DEAD
CONSTANT GARDENER
LONG WEEKEND

SM CITY CAGAYAN DE ORO
CINDERELLA MAN
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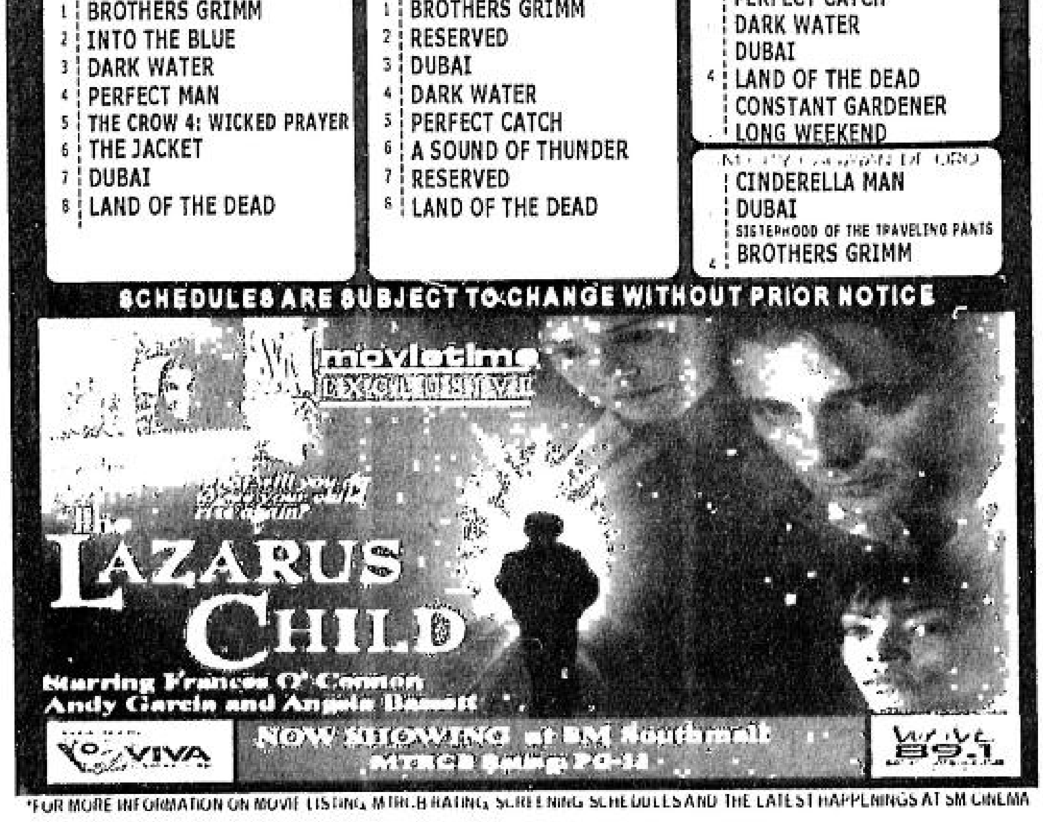

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MTRCB R-13
2 00 4 40 7 20 10 00
3 DUBAI
MTRCB PG-13
12.00, 2.30, 5 00, 7:30, 10.00
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THE 40 YEAR-OLD VIRGIN R13 12:15,2 45,5:15, 7:45,10:15
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- 8 TRANSPORTER 2
- 9 THE PERFECT MAN
- 10 DARK WATER

ERMITA 536-7809 to 12

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- 2 THE DESCENT
- 3 UNDISCOVERED
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- 6 WILD SIDE
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- 8 LAND OF THE DEAD

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- 4 INTO THE BLUE

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- 3 HISTORY OF VIOLENCE
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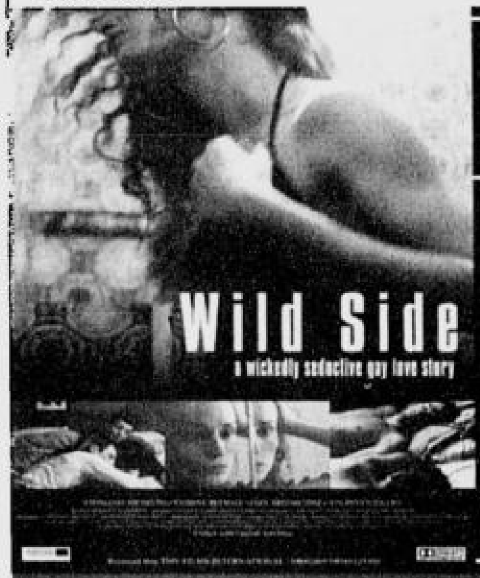
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	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
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G4 GLORIETTA 4	DUBAI	TRANSPORTER 2	THX INTO THE BLUE GUARANTEED SEATS	UNDISCOVERED	CORPSE BRIDE	THE 40 YEAR OLD VIRGIN	A HISTORY OF VIOLENCE
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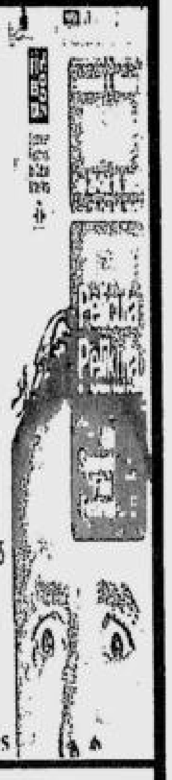

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Wish I could be a bridge between my quarreling pals Aiko and Alana

DOLLY WOOD

Dolly Ann Carvajal

IT'S HARD TO FIND YOURSELF between two friends who are at odds with each other. So when I heard about the brawl between **Aiko Melendez** and socialite **Alana Lopez Montelibano** in Nuvo, I was torn. Alana kept calling but I was preparing for my son IC's play, so I couldn't return her call.

She texted me: "*Amiga*, Aiko kicked my chair and made *siko* **Happy Ongpauco**. Her bodyguard pulled a gun and started punching."

I texted Aiko for her side of the story but she didn't reply. Aiko reportedly said Happy and Alana's group called her names, such as "loser, slut and addict." She also claimed Alana's male friend touched her breasts. I can just imagine what a hellish night it was. An intriguing twist is that Happy's husband **Wowie** is Aiko's ex-bf. But knowing how well-bred both Happy and Aiko are, they wouldn't have let that spark a fight.

I've seen Wowie and Happy in unguarded moments at their Caliraya house, where I have gone to visit them. Whenever talk turns to show biz stuff, their circle of friends would invariably tease Wowie as Aiko's ex when talk turns to show biz stuff. So I'm not taking sides. Instead, I hope I can be a bridge for Aiko and Alana whom I both love dearly. If there's anything I can do to convince both parties to drop their charges against each other, I'll be more than glad to.

I've partied with Alana and our Iloilo group. She's one woman who knows how to have fun. She sees to it that all her guests feel at home. If you know her the way I do, you'll see that her Ilongga *malambing* nature surely makes talk about her being a war freak unthinkable.

As for Aiko, she has been my friend and my mom's, too. She claims she's IC's second mom, since they worked together in "Shake Rattle and Roll 4" when IC was only 4 years old. She doesn't have a mean bone in her body. If only Alana and Aiko would get a chance to really know each other, I am sure that they will get along well. For one thing, they would be swapping single-mom anecdotes and love tips. Just like me, they both had their marriages annulled. They definitely have a lot in common, they're both fighters, though in a different sense. It's would be sad if they let one crazy night blow the chances of a wonderful friendship to blossom!

Guess who?

GUESS who this innocent-looking young actress is! Even when her taping packs up no sooner than the wee hours, she still has energy left for her young actor-boyfriend. She calls him up as soon as her taping winds up and they meet at her place for non-stop ... uh, that's right! No wonder their bodies seem to have "deformed." Heard that the ex-girlfriend (also a teen star) of the actor refused to sleep with him, and that's why they parted ways. From being under- to over- huh? That's what I call (s)-extremes!!

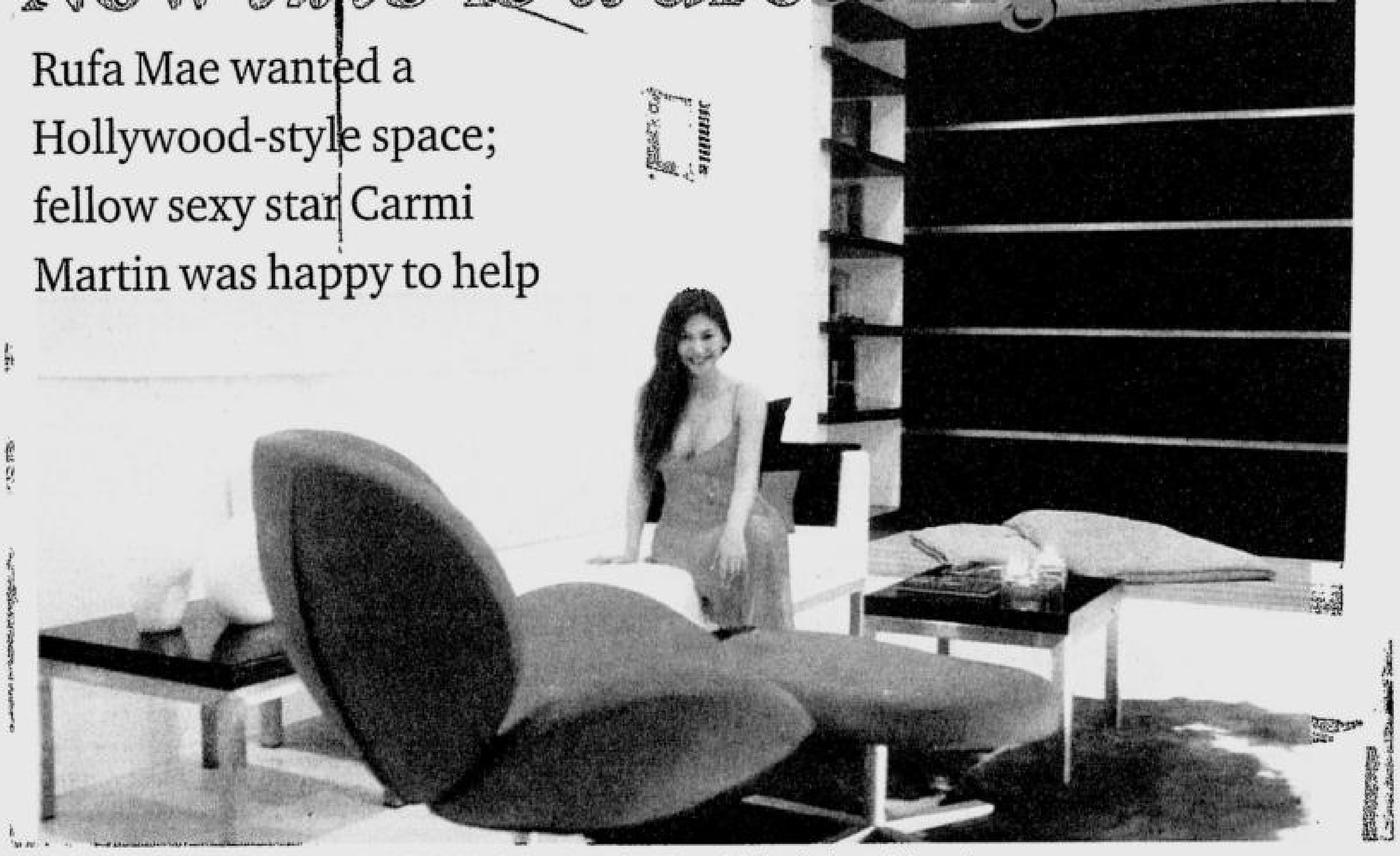
Ryza Cenon was the cause of delay of a show's taping. She kept delivering her spiels in "baby talk," so they had to do several retakes. It was not a sitcom, where she could get away with "pa-cute" dialogues. Besides, she was given the script earlier, so there's no excuse for not memorizing her lines. Maybe she should be sent back to "Starstruck's" training ground?

Ivan Mayrina, the dashing host of GMA 7's "Pinoy Abroad," is not bothered by the emergence of a rival show "Nagmamahal, Kapamilya" on ABS-CBN 2, which also deals with the plight of OFWs. Ivan says "**Rhea (Santos)** and our staff trust our concept, which apparently clicks with the viewers, judging

WISH/ A26

Now *this* is a dressing room

Rufa Mae wanted a Hollywood-style space; fellow sexy star Carmi Martin was happy to help



SLEEK and modern, with touches of red, Rufa Mae's favorite color. The celebrity designer delivered.

By Alex Y. Vergara
Photos by Jim Guiao Punzalan

IT TAKES a diva to know what works for another diva.

When actress Rufa Mae Quinto needed an interior designer to redo part of her three-bedroom home in Quezon City into her idea of a "Hollywood" dressing room and den, she didn't have to look far. Fellow sexy star Carmi Martin was more than willing to lend a hand.

The two were taping a soap opera when they sealed the deal. Rufa Mae knew that Carmi had a degree in interior design but, prior to working with her, she had no clear idea what Carmi was capable of.

Rufa Mae took her chances based not on Carmi's body of work as a designer, but on her reputation as a stylish celebrity. And on the fact that they were in the same profession.

"I figured she would understand the [requirements] of a fellow actress," said Rufa Mae.

Carmi had her client move to a hotel. The job entailed reworking two adjacent bedrooms, one of which opened out to a mini swimming pool. It would take two months and cost about P700,000.

Because of the hot pink walls and parquet flooring, the affected areas were a tad too dark and dated. They were also cluttered—the actress had tons of knickknacks and sundry files, plus countless clothes, bags and shoes. This left no room for a proper dresser, so the actress usually had her makeup done in the bathroom.

The lighting was bad. Carmi knew only too well, of course, the importance of good lighting. In fact, she had done extensive research on the subject while studying at the Philippine School of Interior Design.

Fit for a movie queen

Now, Rufa Mae's dressing room is an all-white affair from floor to ceiling, with three sets of white and yellow lights. She can turn on one or all three sets.

The vanity table, sandwiched between two full-length mirrors, comes with a huge center mirror lined with even more lights, to make makeup artists' job easier.

A minimalist version of a Queen Anne chair is easily moved from one point of the room to another, as it comes with wheels. Also on wheels is a circular upholstered sofa that breaks up into three stools.

Carmi discarded the old closets and replaced them with new ones made of frosted glass and framed with matte silver Formica.

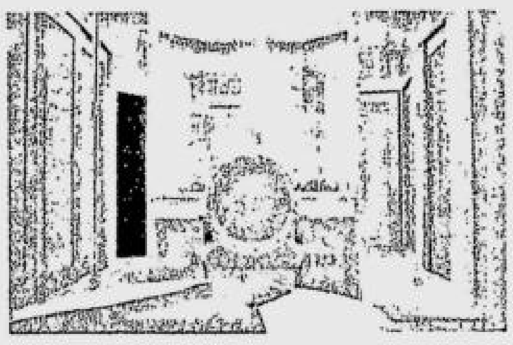
Before Carmi buckled down to work, she had to find out what Rufa Mae wanted. The client, it turned out, wanted bright, minimalist interiors that exude "Hollywood." The parquet flooring in both the dressing room and the den had to go in favor of tactile and skid-proof ceramic tiles.

Oh yes, the den. It underwent a similar overhaul. Carmi infused touches of red and wenge (deep brown) on the white walls to add warmth to the space and break the monotony. Red happens to be Rufa Mae's favorite color.

Instead of buying new stuff, Carmi had most of the furniture and accent pieces in the den refurbished. The savings went to a new flat screen TV that now graces one of the walls. Rufa Mae's mini office, not much bigger than her Apple computer, is tucked in a far corner of the den.

Apart from lending the room an imaginary divider, a small platform has been installed for karaoke nights. The elevated area allows Rufa Mae to move around as she sings for friends. A mini bar stocked with wines and spirits looks out to the pool.

"I'm quite happy with the way it turned out," said Rufa Mae. "It's good to feel like a diva if only in your own home."

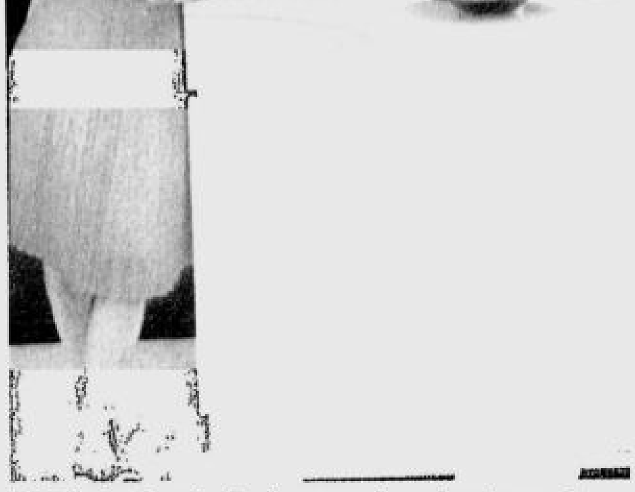


LIGHTS are an all-important component

SHE used to do her makeup in the bathroom

TALK about organizing stuff

HAPPY client, happy designer



BAR in the den that looks out to the swimming pool

ROUNDUP

'Santi' in Pusan, 'Crying' in HK

TWO FILIPINO movies produced by Unitel Pictures have made it to two Asian film festivals.

Mark Meily's "Crying Ladies" was screened at the Hong Kong Asian Film Festival, ongoing until Oct. 11, in the Asianwide Angle section.

Laurice Guillen's "Santa Santita" will be exhibited in the Windows to Asian Cinema section of the Pusan International Film Festival, running from Oct. 6 to 14.

Tito Velasco, general manager of Unico Entertainment, said the company fielded the films "to provide additional venues for Filipino movies in the global market."

Bayani San Diego Jr.

ABS-CBN drops Hero

HERO Angeles

HERO Angeles has been released from his management contract with Star Magic, ABS-CBN's talent management arm.

As of Sept. 30, 2005, Hero is a freelance artist, according to a statement from the actor's manager-brother, Henry Angeles.

Rival network GMA 7 has denied interest in contracting Hero. So has TAPE Inc., producer of the longest-running noontime show "Eat…Bulaga," whose cast Hero was earlier rumored to be joining.

Star Magic previously released a statement that mentioned "difficulties" between the management staff and the Angeles brothers that had "become untenable" and "made future collaborations impossible."

Hero and Henry said they were grateful to "all the people ... [and] those in the media who believed in us."

Nini Valera

Kal-El born to Cages

LOS ANGELES—Oscar-winning actor Nicolas Cage's wife of 14 months gave birth on Monday to the couple's first child together, a son they named Kal-el—a moniker recognized by comic book fans as the birth name of Superman.

The child's delivery in New York City were confirmed by the actor's publicist, Annett Wolf.

Cage, 41, is known as an avid comic book devotee who once sold his personal collection, including a copy of Superman's 1938 pulp debut, at auction for more than $1.6 million.

Reuters

Girl for 'Bennifer2'?

NEW YORK—When a pregnant Jennifer Garner appeared on NBC's "Tonight Show" last week, host Jay Leno asked, "A boy or a girl? Do you know yet?"

"We have one or the other for sure," replied Garner, 33, who is married to Ben Affleck. Later in the show, Garner seemed to refer to her baby bump as a "she."

"I felt bigger and bigger like she ..." Oops. Garner put both hands over her mouth.

AP

Bad back slows down J Fo

PARIS—American actress and activist Jane Fonda canceled her planned attendance at a movie premiere in southern France on Monday, suffering hip and back problems that prompted her to seek treatment at a Paris hospital.

Fonda, 67, was due to attend a showing in Saint-Tropez of a documentary about French filmmaker Roger Vadim, one of her former husbands, who died in 2000.

The pioneering fitness guru recently had one hip replaced.

AP

Australian film fest

FROM tomorrow until Oct. 13, the Australian Embassy presents the 3rd Australian Film Festival, featuring an eclectic selection of 15 critically acclaimed Australian films.

Ambassador Tony Hely officially opens the festival at The Podium with an invitational screening of the award-winning "Swimming Upstream," the compelling and inspirational story of Tony Fingleton, a young man from a troubled family who became a swimming champion.

For the full schedule of screenings, log on to www.philippines.embassy.gov.au. Or call the embassy, 757-8173; SM Cinemas, 833-9999; or UP Film Institute, 926-3640.

To the big screen, ladies

"SEX AND the City" stars Sarah Jessica Parker and Cynthia Nixon topbill family comedies from 20th Century Fox. In "Little Manhattan," Nixon plays mother to an 11-year-old boy who falls in love for the first time. Sarah Jessica Parker is a tormented future-in-law in "The Family Stone," which she headlines with Dermot Mulroney and Diane Keaton.

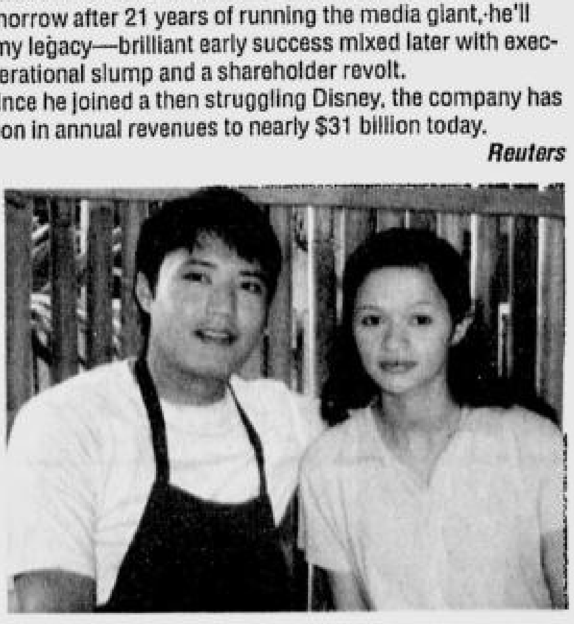
Turnover at Disney

LOS ANGELES—When Michael Eisner hands over the keys to Disney's Magic Kingdom tomorrow after 21 years of running the media giant, he'll leave behind a stormy legacy—brilliant early success mixed later with executive turmoil, an operational slump and a shareholder revolt.

In the 21 years since he joined a then struggling Disney, the company has gone from $1.5 billion in annual revenues to nearly $31 billion today.

Reuters

MARK Anthony Fernandez headlines tonight's episode of ABS-CBN's "Maalaala Mo Kaya," as the son of an abortionist, played by Elizabeth Oropesa. Chito Roño directs.



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THURSDAY,
OCTOBER 6, 2005
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
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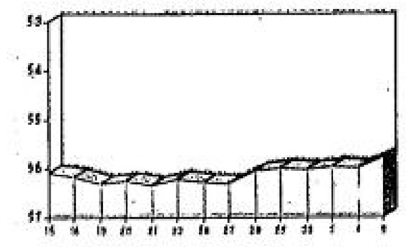
PETRON

Inflation eased to 7% in September

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES



PESO-DOLLAR RATE

P55.77 = $1

As of 5 p.m., Oct. 5, 2005

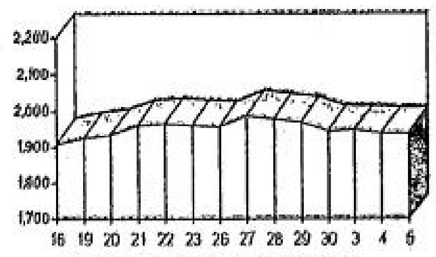
Y113.78 = $1

As of 5 p.m., Oct. 5, 2005

GOLD: $466.80-467.30

per ounce Hong Kong, Oct. 5, 2005

STOCK MARKET



(See stock market report on Page B4)

Shares close higher

SHARE prices closed 0.13 percent higher yesterday as modest bargain-hunting in the banks enlivened an otherwise sluggish market, dealers said.

They said renewed political jitters and a further delay in the collection of a new value-added tax (VAT) law continue to weigh on sentiment.

The Philippine Stock Exchange composite index rose 2.59 points to 1,940.94 after trading between 1,943.74 to 1,931.36 points.

AFP

But BSP hints at new rate hike

By Michelle V. Remo
and Doris C. Dumlao

INFLATION EASED TO 7 percent year-on-year in September, the lowest since August 2004, as the increase in the prices of food and utilities started to abate, the National Statistics Office reported yesterday.

Economists said inflation would further slow down in the last three months of the year and would post a full-year average of only 6.5 percent if the VAT Reform Law is not implemented this year.

The September inflation brought the average figure for the first nine months of 2005 to 7.9 percent.

On a month-on-month basis, September inflation likewise decelerated to 0.4 percent compared with the 0.5 percent recorded in August.

But while inflation is seen headed downward in the last quarter of the year, the government already conceded that the full-year figure would breach the original target of between 5 and 6 percent. The 2005 inflation target was set when oil prices were not expected were way below their historic highs.

Victor Abola, an economist from the University of Asia and the Pacific, said the slowdown in price increases in the latter months of 2005 would partly be due to the high inflation base in the second semester last year.

He added that many businesses, to compensate for the increasing cost of oil, already raised prices of their products and services in the months prior to September, thus making inflation last month softer.

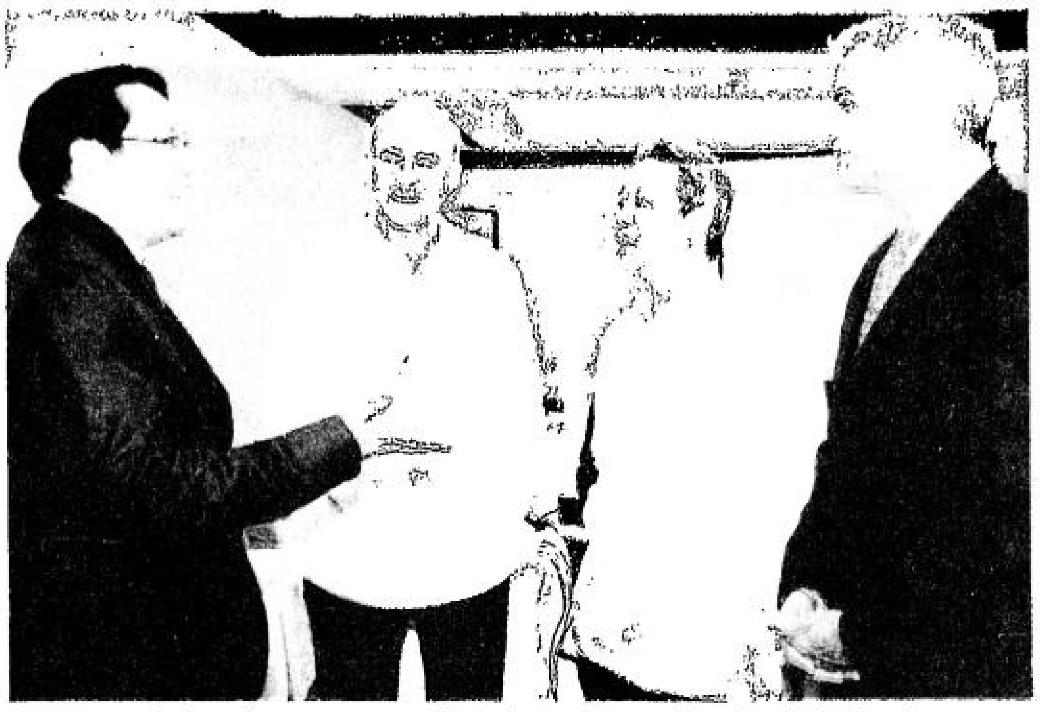
Despite the lower inflation, the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas yesterday hinted at further monetary tightening.

"The September rate (7 percent) is within our projected range for the month. While the moderation from earlier months is as expected there remain potential risks to inflation down the road such as the movement of oil prices," BSP Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. said.

"It is important to guard against possible second-round effects. Liquidity growth and interest rate differentials are also significant considerations. Given this, monetary policy should remain cautious," Tetangco said.

The BSP has so far raised its key overnight rates twice this year by a

INFLATION/ B4



HSBC recently forged an agreement with Ayala Land Inc. and Fort Bonifacio Development Corp. (FBDC) to set up an operations center at the Global City. HSBC's built-to-suit facility will occupy approximately 11,200 sq.m. and will house close to 900 employees. Present during the signing ceremony were (from left): Jaime Ayala, president-Ayala Land Inc.; Warner Manning, CEO-HSBC; Joselito Campos, chairman-FBDC and Fernando Zobel de Ayala, chairman-Ayala Land Inc.

BIR eyes new program to lure delinquent taxpayers

By Michelle V. Remo

THE BUREAU OF INTERNAL REVENUE (BIR) plans to implement another amnesty-type program to encourage tax delinquents to become legitimate taxpayers.

The program, called the Enhanced Voluntary Assessment Program (Evap), is embodied in a draft revenue regulation, which is subject for approval by the Department of Finance, the BIR's head agency.

The draft revenue regulation said that under the Evap, participating delinquent taxpayers would have their penalties reduced and would be the BIR's last priority in tax audit if they would voluntarily rectify their erroneous tax returns or remit unpaid taxes.

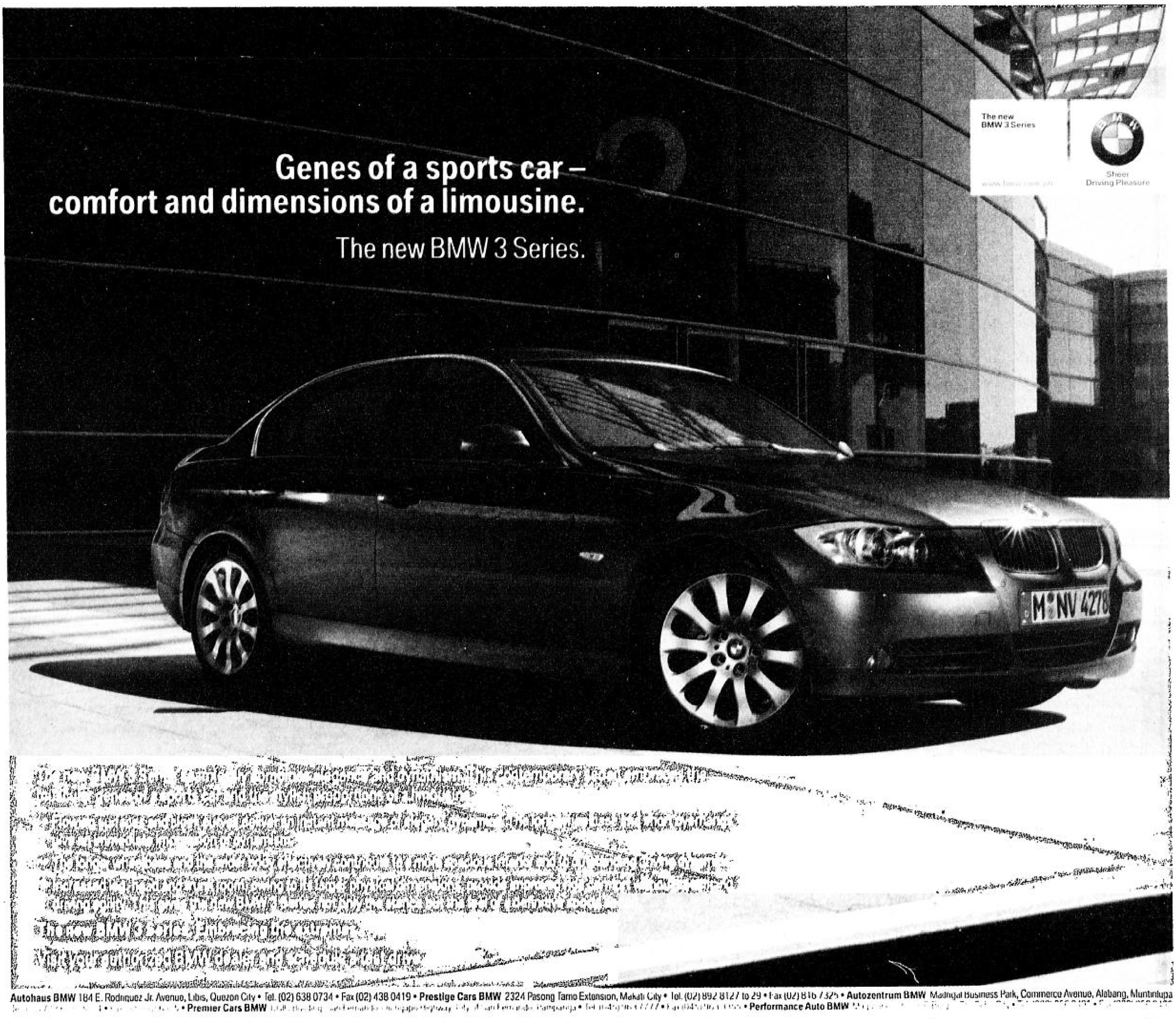
The taxes to be covered by the Evap would include income tax, value-added tax, excise tax, documentary stamp tax, withholding tax and capital gains tax. The program also intends to cover tax liabilities for 2004 and earlier.

The draft regulation calls for different means of computing the tax liability of a taxpayer applying for the Evap. For taxpayers who have unpaid income tax liabilities and who

BIR EYES/ B3

WHAT'S INSIDE

ADB sets aside P2.4B for SME development in RP /B3
Tariff differential sought by refiners opposed /B8



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MIAA entices PAL to move to Naia 3

By Clarissa S. Batino

PHILIPPINE AIRLINES YESTERDAY SAID the Manila International Airport Authority has offered "reasonable" rates in exchange for the flag carrier's transfer to the Ninoy Aquino International Airport Terminal 3.

"The offer is not too far from what we are paying them now at the NAIA 2. If the price difference is not that high, then we can move there," PAL president Jaime Bautista said in an interview.

Aside from the issue of fees, PAL said transferring to the new terminal would depend on MIAA's allowing it to integrate its domestic and overseas operations at NAIA 3.

He doubted though that the terminal would open by December.

Operating under one roof is more efficient in terms of costs and operations, added Bautista.

PAL, controlled by Lucio Tan, is on its sixth year of rehabilitation and its creditors require it to meet operational and financial targets.

NAIA 3 is supposed to be a dedicated terminal for international operations.

Its operations would not be viable, however, without the volume brought by PAL.

PAL is the largest airline operating 32 aircraft for passenger and cargo in domestic and overseas routes.

It has been using the relatively new NAIA 2 to service passengers, while all other carriers use NAIA 1 or the oldest terminal.

PAL could not commit to the transfer to Naia 3, however, as PAL was concerned that terminal, aeronautical fees and lease contracts were going to be much higher than what it pays at Naia 2.

MIAA, which is responsible for the airport terminals, however, is willing to negotiate.

"What is important right now is that we are talking to MIAA. The communication lines are open," he added.

Meanwhile, Asia's Emerging Dragon Corp., also controlled by Tan, had offered to pay the government $300 million for the right to operate NAIA 3.

The cigarette tycoon is wooing his former partners in AEDC to buy back their shares and help him win the NAIA 3 project.

One for the rude

BREAKTIME

Conrado R. Banal III

IT'S TIME FOR ANOTHER AMAZING story about tax, and unfortunately, the telling had to happen during the watch of Finance Secretary Margarito Teves.

Tax is a dirty word these days, as we all know, except perhaps the 60 something congressmen who went to New York with Gloriaetta recently, claiming that they did not spend a single centavo of our taxes, because they actually used their own money.

Let lighting strike them if they are lying.

Anyway, tax is everybody's biggest concern. This broke but still cute administration wants to raise a lot of money through taxes.

That's why the amazing tax story became headline material a few days ago. New finance chief Gary Teves reportedly said that the fate of the BIR interim commissioner, known as "OIC" in gay, este, bureaucratic lingo, still hangs in the balance.

The bureau OIC happens to be a top-notch tax lawyer named Jose Buñag. Still, according to reports, Teves said Buñag may or may not stay on as BIR chief, depending on the tax collection for last September.

It's hard to say what Teves ate that morning, but I used to know this man as a level-headed deep-thinking technocrat.

***

REALLY, my contacts in business can not seem to make heads or tails of the reports, quoting as they did Teves himself who, as finance secretary, traditionally should act as the captain ball of the administration's economic team.

Well, it sounded like this besieged cute administration was giving Buñag a... well, last chance, as if he was performing badly.

And so, if the BIR will not hit its target collection for September, even it exceeded its target in August, Buñag will have to pack up.

That is one possibility—that Teves is laying the groundwork for this cute administration's move to put another one of Gloriaetta's fair-haired boys in BIR.

After all, nowadays, people look at tax collection as a do-or-die proposition. On the BIR's collection depends our international credit rating.

If the BIR performs well, maybe we can get good rates for our future loans. If not, we go down to junk status.

But then again, others are saying that, if the BIR performs well for that one and only one particular month, that apparently SPECIAL month of September, and the BIR hits the collection target, does it mean that Buñag can stay on for the rest of the life of this cute administration, whatever is left of it?

***

AS far as I can recall, a month's worth of collection never was the main criterion for the appointment of BIR commissioners, and let's just say that I can look quite far back. (All right, I admit that I have been covering the bureau for about 25 years now. But I started young, okay?)

But then again, as far as I can recall, there was never an appointment of any —what was the term again—"OIC" - at this all-important bureau before.

I don't know what this cute administration ate that morning when it appointed Buñag only as "OIC," but I used to think that the BIR chief must always—at all times—have the full backing of the Chief Executive.

The BIR, in case the Palace missed it, remains a den of ...well, whatever.

And so what kind of squashy tender juicy muscle do you give your BIR chief to enforce authority over BIR personnel, whom we always suspect to be in cahoots with big-time taxpayers, if you make an indecisive move such as putting an OIC there?

Let me guess—how about WEAK?

***

ANYWAY, if the BIR collection in September is the key to Buñag's appointment, what do we make of reports that, indeed, the BIR posted a surplus in its collection for the month?

Can we expect Teves to also come out in the news any time now to say that, well, Buñag finally becomes the real BIR chief, because he passed the acid test of ONE WHOLE MONTH of collection?

Allow me to be rude just this one time, and ask you what did the Palace have in mind when it put Buñag only as OIC at the intrigue-infested BIR where, if you must do a good job, you must be so trusted by the Chief Executive, you almost have a license to shoot.

Was Gloriaetta perhaps reserving the position ("juicy," some would call it) for somebody else? You know—as a "reward" for blind loyalty?

For I still can't believe it, ladies and gentlemen. Despite this cute administration's having a substantial budget deficit for a cross, it still only has an OIC for such an important position as BIR chief.

Again, today, the fate of this country rests on the BIR, if we want to cure the sick finances of this cute administration.

Or else, we can no longer expect funding from abroad. At the very best, funding may come in trickles as our credit rating gets another downgrade.

I know you can reserve seats in movie houses today, but I never thought you can do the same at the BIR.

***

AS for Buñag, anyway, the guy does not have a "backer" at the Palace, say, in the same way as most of the other appointees.

It's just that the guy is highly qualified. Look, records showed that he took up graduate courses in taxation at the New York University, where he also had a master's degree in law.

And the guy was a consistent honor student, from grade school to law school, even landing second place in the bar exams. I mean, is that qualified or what?

And so, when a finance undersecretary submitted Buñag's name as a replacement deputy commissioner at the BIR in 2002, he quickly got the position.

Anyway, it was just a DEPUTY commissioner position, in charge of legal and inspection department, which was vacated when former BIR chief Rene Bañes was forced to resign, because the BIR mafia ate him alive.

I mean, Buñag became deputy commissioner on the strength of his career record as a tax lawyer, and he stayed as deputy for three years on that strength alone.

Unfortunately for him, the Hyatt 10 happened. Suddenly in need of an immediate face-saving replacement for resigned BIR chief Guillermo Parayno, this cute administration pushed Buñag into the limelight as...well "OIC."

It seems to many in business that Buñag was only—to use the style of the man named Band... Wrist Band—a "hole cover" (*panakip butas*).

***

PERSONALLY, I believe the man deserves better. Just barely three months as "OIC," he has been getting flak from media over the BIR collection.

Even if in his past two months as OIC, the BIR exceeded its monthly targets, he still got media flak.

So, can you imagine what media would do to him if the BIR missed those targets?

Reports said the BIR exceeded its September collection target by P600 million, and its August target, by P3.3 billion.

National Treasurer Omar Cruz, however, questioned the figure for August, noting that P1.4 billion of the collection was "non-cash" tax payment, meaning, it goes from one government pocket to another, and it therefore can not finance anything for government, not even *butong pakwan*.

That P1.4 billion, actually, was supposed to be the Bureau of Treasury's documentary stamp tax payment for August.

It was a "non-cash" item, because the bureau did not have to remit money to BIR. Everything was just done through book entry. No cash changing hands, in short!

Told that the BIR could no longer count the doc stamp tax payment from the treasury as "collection," Buñag said it was only logical.

But the thing is, the BIR has been counting it as "collection," even before Buñag became the "hole cover" (*panakip-butas*).

And why was that? Well, it's because the BIR also always had targets for doc stamp collection.

This year, for instance, the target doc stamp collection from the Bureau of Treasury itself—the same bureau questioning the practice—was set at P5 billion.

Let me see if I get it right—so the BIR has a P5-billion target for doc stamp collection from the national treasury, but the national treasury says that the BIR cannot collect even "non-cash" payment from the treasury, and so it is up to the BIR to imagine some other ways to hit that P5-billion target—is that it?

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PROGRAM OF ACTIVITIES

DAY 1
October 5, 2005

8.00 - 10.00 Registration and Networking
(Welcome musical rendition by Banda Kawayan)
10.00 10:15 Coffee Break
10:15 - 10:30 OPENING OF THE PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT CLINIC
Led by: Hon. Estrella F. Alabastro — Secretary, Department of Science and Technology
Assisted by: Dr. Mina T. Gabor — President, Philippine Small and Medium Business Development Foundation (PHILSMED)
Hon. Lecira V. Juarez — Chairperson, Cooperative Development Authority (CDA)
PHILSMED Board of Directors And Officers
Officers of the Cooperative Development Authority
Co-Organizers (Heads of Federations)
Sponsors
Product Specialists/Consultants & Other Guests
10.30 11:15 OPENING CEREMONY
National Anthem — LandBank of the Philippines Choir
Invocation — Earth Sivam Dinoma Ensemble (UNESCO Artists for Peace) (by the group of NCCA Executive Director, Cecile Guidote Alvarez)
Opening Remarks — Dr. Mina T. Gabor, President, PHILSMED
Opening Message — Hon. Lecira V. Juarez, Chairperson, Cooperative Development Authority (CDA)
Sounding of Gong by Co-Organizers — Led by Philsmed Chairman, Mr. Alberto Feres Jr.
Introduction of the Keynote Speaker — Hon. Lecira V. Juarez, Chairperson, Cooperative Development Authority (CDA)
Keynote Speaker — Hon. Senator Alfredo S. Lim, Chairman, Senate Committee on Cooperatives
11.15 12.00 1st Plenary Session: "Proactive Coop Set Up"
Facilitator — Mr. Marcico Masagca, Board of Director, PNB Retirees and Employees Multipurpose Cooperative
Speaker — Mr. Shil Kwan Lee, Regional Director for the Asia Pacific Region, International Cooperative Alliance
Reactors — Mr. Ruben M. Conti, Associate Dean, Graduate School of Management, Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Maynila (PLM)
Mr. Fulgencio A. Vigare, Administrator, Cooperative Development Authority
Mr. Felix A. Borja, Secretary-General, Cooperative Union of the Philippines
12:00 - 12:15 Open Forum
12:15 1:30 Lunch/Raffle Draw
Entertainment/Intermission — Lakandula Cultural Dance Troupe (Courtesy: Department of Tourism)
1:30- 1:45 Globe IT Solutions for SMEs — Ms. Agnes Celeste D. Fernando, Head, Globe's SME Sales Channel, Sales & Distribution, Consumer Business Group
1:45 2.00 Open Forum/Raffle Draw
2.00 - 2:45 2nd Plenary Session: "IT Improves Coop Networking"
Facilitator — Mr. Angelo Gumeon M. Perez, Head IT Department, National Confederation of Cooperatives (NATCCO)
Speaker — Secretary Virgilio L. Peña, Commission on Information and Communication Technology
Reactors — Mr. Charlie Samson, Operations Manager, Philippine Federation of Credit Cooperatives (PFCCO)
Mr. Horacio T. Cadiz, CEO, Philippine Network Foundation
2:45 - 3.00 Open Forum
3.00 - 3.15 Coffee Break/Raffle Draw
3.15 - 4:15 3rd Plenary Session: "Novice Marketing for Cooperatives"
Facilitator — Mr. Getino F. Barco, Consultant, Union of Metro Manila Cooperative (UMMC)
Speaker — Dr. Mina T. Gabor Ph.D., President, PHILSMED
Reactors — Asst. Sec. Felicitas Agoncillo Reyes, Executive Director, Center for International Trade Expositions and Missions (CITEM)
Mr. Donald Patrick Lim, President, Philippine Marketing Association
4:15 - 4:30 Open Forum
4:30 - 6.00 Networking/Product Consultancy

DAY 2
October 6, 2005

8:45 - 9.45 4th Plenary Session: "Product Development Ensures Sustainability of Cooperative Sales"
Facilitator — Ms. Myrna Sunico, Professor, University of Santo Tomas
Speaker — Mr. Ricky Manuel, Founder & CEO, Green Mango Trading
Reactors — Undersecretary Rogelio Panlasigui, Department of Science & Technology
Mr. Joel C. Enriquez, President/Design Director, Luna Designs
Mr. Reimon O. Gutierrez, Architect, Consultant, Designer, R&D Design
Mr. Al Caronan, Vice President and General Manager, TN Philippines, Inc.
9.45 - 10:00 Open Forum
10:00 - 10:15 Coffee Break/Raffle Draw
10.15 - 10:45 5th Plenary Session: "Importance of Asset Management To Cooperatives"
Facilitator — Ms. Teresita Ison, Landbank of the Philippines
Speaker — Ms. Gilda Pico, Acting President, Landbank of the Philippines
Reactor — Atty. Ronaldo Fernandez, Chairman, Metro South Cooperative Bank
10:45 - 11:00 Open Forum
11:00 - 11:45 6th Plenary Session: "Breaking Barriers: Continuous Education For Cooperatives"
Facilitator — Dr. Alfredo B. DeTorres, Coordinator, Graduate Program Office of College of Public Affairs, UP Los Baños
Speaker — Mr. Ruben M. Conti, Associate Dean, Graduate School of Management, Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Maynila
Reactor — Dr. Eulogio T. Castillo, Director, Agricultural Credit and Cooperative Institute (ACCI), UP Los Baños
11:45 - 12.00 Open Forum
12.00 - 12:30 Lunch/Raffle Draw — Ramon Obusan Folkloric Group
12:30 - 1:30 2nd Business Excellence Awards for SME's (Separate Program)
1:30 - 2:30 7th Plenary Session: Green Technology for Global Acceptance of Coop Produce"
Facilitator — Mr. Marfred Prenada, Consultant, PHILSMED
Speaker — Undersecretary Salvador Salacup, Department of Agriculture
Reactors — Ms. Mary Ann P. Saydc, General Manager, East-West Seed Company
Mr. Jerry Pacturan, Executive Director, Philippine Development Assistance Programme, Inc.
2:30 - 2:45 Open Forum
2.45 - 3.00 Coffee Break/Raffle Draw
3.00 - 4.00 8th Plenary Session: "Experiences and Futures: Credit, Savings and Cooperative Financing"
Facilitator — Mr. Ben Hur Amador, Marketing Officer, Philippine Resoriel and Education Service Cooperative
Speakers — Mr. Ranjith Hettiarachchi, CEO, Association of Asian Confederation of Credit Unions
Reactors — Mr. Nelson C. Buenaflor, President/CEO, Quedan & Rural Credit Guarantee Corporation
Mr. Alex G. Alsendral, Vice President, Business Operations, National Confederation of Cooperatives
4:00 - 4:15 Open Forum
4:15 6.00 9th Plenary Session: "Best Practices of Successful Cooperatives"
Facilitator — Father Mar Arenas, Parish of the Holy Cross Credit Cooperatives
Speakers — Mr. Rico B. Geron, General Manager, Soro Soro Ibaba Development Coop
Ms. Mylene De Ocampo, Marketing Manager, LIMCOMA
Dr. Crispin C. Rafol, Vice Chairman, CAFFMACO
Mr. Roberto Mascenna, General Manager, Barangka Credit Cooperative
Atty. Bernard D. Padang, Chairman, Baguio Benguet Community Credit Cooperative
Guest Speaker/Presentor — Mr. Harish Melwani, CEO, HLN Pharma Inc.

ADB sets aside ₱2.4B for SME development in RP

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK YESTERday said it set aside an aid package of $44.4 million or about P2.4 billion for the development of small and medium enterprises in the country.

ADB officials said in a statement that the package includes a $25-million loan, a partial credit guarantee facility of about $18.4 million, and an equity investment of up to $1 million.

According to the Manila-based multilateral lender, the SME support is one of several projects for 2005-2007 endorsed by the ADB board of directors last July.

The package of projects is under a lending program that could amount to as high as $1.5 billion, depending on the progress on sector reforms and fiscal consolidation.

Small Business Guarantee and Finance Corp., the government's lending arm dedicated to SMEs, was named executing agency for the five-year project, which will run until October 2010.

Asa Malmstrom Rognes, an ADB senior financial economist, said the project supports Malacañang's 10-Point Agenda as it would help stimulate SME development in the country, contribute to sustainable growth and generate jobs.

"The combination of a public sector loan and a private sector facility allows the project to target different segments of the SME market and will hopefully expand financing to SMEs," Rognes said.

The ADB loan is backed by a government guarantee and would serve as a credit line to SB Corp., which would re-lend in pesos to viable SMEs with no access to bank financing.

ADB's loan carries a 15-year term, including a grace period of three years.

The partial credit guarantee facility equivalent to P1 billion will be offered to encourage selected private sector financial institutions to expand their SME portfolio, particularly to medium-sized enterprises outside SB Corp.'s target group.

Further, an equity investment of up to $1 million, or not more than a quarter of the project cost for a planned credit information bureau, would help establish a comprehensive and credible credit information system.

The entire project is supported by a technical assistance grant to strengthen credit management systems for SMEs, and a separate Tokyo-backed grant from the Japan Fund for Information and Communication Technology to develop the Philippine business registry.

BIR eyes new program …

From page B1

want to apply for the program, the amount of tax they should remit must be at least 20 percent higher than the income tax they paid the previous year. The amount, however, should not be lower than P10,000 for individuals and P100,000 for corporations.

The program, however, disqualifies taxpayers who have already been issued letters of notice (LNs) or a Final Assessment Notice (FAN) on or before Oct. 31, 2005. LNs and FANs are documents sent to taxpayers showing their unpaid tax liabilities and asking them to pay the tax dues.

The BIR failed to clarify, however, whether the Evap would replace the existing No-Audit Program (NAP), which was also designed to encourage voluntary remittance of unpaid tax payments. NAP failed to achieve its target of attracting 100,000 delinquent taxpayers, and has had only a little over 4,000 applicants as of July.

The Evap is part of the new policy adopted by the BIR in terms of going after tax cheats.

BIR Officer-in-Charge Jose Mario Buñag, who replaced Guillermo Parayno Jr., said he was focused more on collecting taxes by means of voluntary payments rather than conducting tax audits and filing charges against tax evaders.

Since he assumed the BIR's top post last February, the revenue agency has slowed down in filing tax evasion charges.

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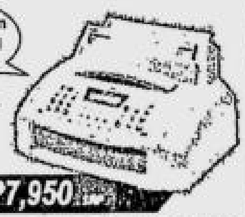

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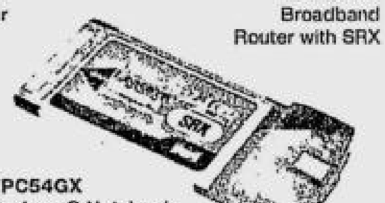

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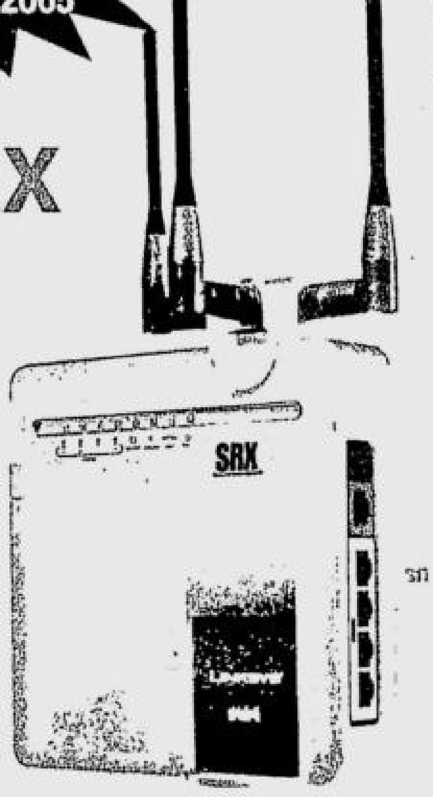

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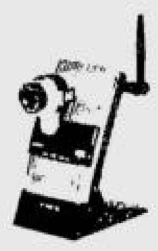

Republic of the Philippines
Province of Iloilo
Municipality of Calinog

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Government of the Philippines, through the Department of Land Reform (DLR) has received a Loan from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) towards the cost of Agrarian Reform Communities Project (ARCP). It is intended that part of the proceeds of this loan will be applied to eligible payments under the contracts of Rural Infrastructure Component for which this invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid is issued.

The Local Government of Calinog, Iloilo through the Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites contractors registered with and classified by the Philippine Contractors accreditation (PCAB) as "Medium A" or higher for similar contract to apply for eligible, to bid for the hereunder contract:

Name of Contract	Rehabilitation of Sitio Paradahan-Marinas Road with One (1) Lane Reinforced Concrete Bridge
Location	Barangay Toyungan, Calinog, Iloilo
Brief Description	Road Rehabilitation/Improvement
Approved Budget for the : Contract (ABC)	Php 15,506,390.28
Contract Duration	176 Calendar Days

Prospective bidders should possess a valid PCAB License applicable to the contract, have completed a similar contract with a value of at least 50% of the ABC, and have key personnel and equipment (listed in the Eligibility Forms) available for the prosecution of the contract. The BAC will use non-discretionary pass/fail criteria in the Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids. The BAC will conduct post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference, Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulation (IRR).

The schedule of BAC activities is as follows:

BAC Activities	Schedule
1. Receipt from prospective bidders of Letters of Intent (LOI) including Application for Eligibility	October 13-19, 2005
2. Issuance of Eligibility Forms	October 13-19, 2005
3. Receipt of Eligibility Requirements	October 19, 2005
4. Notice of Results of Eligibility Check	October 20, 2005
5. Issuance of Bid Documents	October 25-31, 2005
6. Pre-Bid Conference	October 27, 2005, 10:00AM
7. Receipt and Opening of Bids	November 9, 2005; 10:00AM

The BAC will issue to prospective bidders Eligibility Forms at *BAC Secretariat, Municipal Hall, Calinog, Iloilo*, upon their submission of a LOI, and upon their payment of a non-refundable amount of One Thousand pesos (Php 1,000.00) to the *LGU of Calinog Cashier.* Prospective bidders shall submit the Eligibility Requirements to the BAC at the said address. They may also obtain the results of the Eligibility Check by the BAC at the same address.

All bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security in the following forms:

1. Cash /Certified check/cashier's check, manager's check in the amount of one percent (1%) of ABC which is P155,063.90 and,
2. Surety Bond which is two and a half percent (2.5%) of ABC in the amount of P387,659.76 callable on demand and issued by the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS) or any reputable surety insurance company and to be posted in favor of LGU – Calinog, Iloilo.

The BAC will issue Bidding Documents only to bidders declared by the BAC to be eligible for the bidding upon payment of a non-refundable amount of Eight Thousand Pesos Only (Php 8,000.00) to the *LGU of Calinog's* Cashier.

The *LGU Calinog* assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expense incurred in the preparation of their bids.

Approved by:

(Sgd.) MA. MELANIE L. HILARIO
BAC Chairman

(PDI-Sept. 29 & Oct. 6, 2005)

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PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of October 5, 2005)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank, Inc.	3.75	3.75	3.75	3.75	7,000
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	31	31	30	30	3,438,300
Bank of the Phil. Islands	52	53.5	52	53.5	2,060,700
Citystate Savings Bank	17.5	17.5	17.5	17.5	200
Export and Ind. Bank Inc.	0.58	0.58	0.57	0.57	810,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	48	48.5	48	48	240,300
International Exch. Bank	18.75	18.75	18.75	18.75	2,500
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	27	27.5	27	27	255,800
Philippine National Bank	31	32	31	32	17,600
Phil. Savings Bank	34	34	34	34	700
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	15	15	15	15	13,100
Security Bank Corp.	30	30	29.5	29.5	450,000
Union Bank of the Phil.	29	29.5	29	29.5	52,500
FINANCIAL SERVICES					
Manulife Financial Corp.	2900	2900	2900	2900	550
Sun Life Financial Inc.	2060	2065	2060	2060	250
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	14	14	14	14	13,400
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.95	0.95	0.95	0.95	970,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	730	730	725	725	59,270
Ipeople Inc.	2.65	2.75	2.65	2.7	120,000
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.048	0.048	0.048	0.048	2,000,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.048	0.049	0.048	0.049	900,000
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	2.9	2.95	2.9	2.95	124,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	1690	1690	1675	1685	84,300
Ivantage Corp.	0.57	0.58	0.57	0.58	400,000
Philweb Corp.	0.014	0.017	0.014	0.017	400,300,000
POWER, ENERGY & OTHER UTILITIES					
Manila Electric Co. A	13.5	13.5	13.5	13.5	19,600
Manila Electric Co. B	20.5	20.5	20.5	20.5	209,700
Manila Water Co. Inc.	6.2	6.4	6.2	6.3	3,971,000
Petron Corp.	3.2	3.2	3.15	3.15	1,140,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0.99	1.02	0.99	1	550,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	9	9.1	9	9	510,000
Lorenzo Shipping Corp.	1.18	1.18	1.18	1.18	150,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.52	0.54	0.52	0.54	1,210,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	3.55	3.55	3.55	3.55	4,000
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	29	29	28.5	29	50,300
Jollibee Foods Corp.	37	38	37	38	251,000
Liberty Flour Mills Inc.	15	15	15	15	27,600
San Miguel Corp. A	64.5	65	64.5	65	92,100
San Miguel Corp. B	90.5	90.5	88.5	88.5	331,400
Vitarich Corp.	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	740,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.0065	0.0075	0.0065	0.0075	10,000,000
Ayala Corp.	285	285	282.5	285	171,600
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	5.1	5.1	5.1	5.1	20,000
Alliance Global Group Inc.	10	10	10	10	5,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.022	0.022	0.022	0.022	8,000,000
A. Soriano Corp.	2.04	2.06	2.04	2.04	93,000
APC Group Inc.	0.26	0.26	0.24	0.24	400,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.007	0.007	0.007	0.007	47,000,000
Anglo Phil Holdings Corp.	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	500,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	10	10	9.5	9.5	82,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.98	1	0.98	1	2,420,000
A. Brown Co. Inc.	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	90,000
CADP Group Corp.	1.14	1.14	1.14	1.14	10,000
Southeast Asian Cement	0.24	0.24	0.24	0.24	200,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	3.1	3.2	3.1	3.15	711,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.12	1.12	1.12	1.12	200,000
Fil-Hispano Holdings Corp.	5	5	5	5	386,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	41	41.5	41	41	541,100
Global Equities Inc.	0.0675	0.0675	0.0675	0.0675	500,000
House of Investments Inc.	0.83	0.83	0.8	0.81	1,020,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.5	11,000
Keppel Holdings	1.06	1.06	1.06	1.06	20,000
Keppel Holdings B	1.06	1.06	1.06	1.06	13,000
Macroasia Corp.	1.78	1.78	1.78	1.78	81,000
Marsteel Cons. Inc. B	0.015	0.018	0.015	0.018	2,600,000
Megaworld Corp.	1.34	1.34	1.32	1.34	3,233,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.3	0.31	0.3	0.31	5,200,000
Philcomsat Holdings Corp.	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75	10,000
Prime Media Holdings Inc.	1.04	1.04	1.04	1.04	20,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	1.14	1.18	1.14	1.16	738,000
Solid Group, Inc.	0.46	0.46	0.46	0.46	500,000
SM Investments Corp.	217	218	217	217	246,100
Seafront Resources Corp.	0.42	0.48	0.42	0.48	100,000
Unioil Res. & Holdings Co	0.125	0.125	0.12	0.12	1,060,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Interphil Labs Inc. A	1	1	1	1	300,000
Music Semiconductors Corp.	1.16	1.18	1.16	1.18	180,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES					
Belle Corp.	0.89	0.89	0.89	0.89	1,850,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	200,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	1.5	1.5	1.46	1.48	323,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.31	420,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp.(Pdr)	13.75	13.75	13.75	13.75	7,500
PLDT (10% Pref) Series O	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	800
PLDT (10% Pref) Series T	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,000
PLDT (10% Pref.) Series U	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,400
PLDT 10% Pref Series Aa	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	10,000
OTHERS					
Centro Escolar University	8.8	8.9	8.8	8.9	15,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	8.2	8.4	8.2	8.3	12,772,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	0.93	0.94	0.93	0.93	620,000
C&P Homes Inc.	0.17	0.18	0.17	0.175	17,950,000
EIB Realty Developers Inc.	0.13	0.13	0.13	0.13	10,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.37	0.37	0.36	0.36	6,810,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.3	1.3	1.28	1.3	2,926,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.19	0.195	0.185	0.185	1,450,000
City & Land Developers	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	9,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.46	0.46	0.46	0.46	40,000
MRC Allied Ind. Inc.	0.14	0.14	0.14	0.14	10,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	5	5	5	5	1,465,000
SM Development Corp.	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4	10,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	7.4	7.4	7.4	7.4	14,305,000
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc. A	0.92	1	0.92	1	270,000
Apex Mining Co. Inc. B	0.92	0.92	0.9	0.91	60,000
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.007	0.007	0.007	0.007	51,000,000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	5.6	5.7	5.6	5.7	192,000
Benguet Corp. A	7.5	7.5	7.5	7.5	12,000
Dizon Copper Silver Mines	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	5,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.235	0.24	0.235	0.24	800,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.28	0.29	0.28	0.28	3,730,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.016	0.016	0.016	0.016	87,800,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.024	0.024	0.024	0.024	20,000,000
Omico Corp.	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	42,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.9	0.94	0.9	0.94	3,110,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	1.08	1.12	1.08	1.12	2,856,000
Semirara Mining Corp.	26	26	26	26	46,200
United Paragon Mining Co.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	200,000
OIL					
Sinophil Corp.	0.13	0.13	0.13	0.13	2,000,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.31	0.32	0.31	0.32	60,000

CURRENCIES

October 5, 2005 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.838856	1.000000	55.9500
Japan	Yen	0.007345	0.008756	0.4899
United Kingdom	Pound	1.476470	1.760100	98.4776
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.108153	0.128929	7.2136
Switzerland	Franc	0.644579	0.768403	42.9921
Canada	Dollar	0.715747	0.853242	47.7389
Singapore	Dollar	0.495280	0.590423	33.0342
Australia	Dollar	0.639860	0.762777	42.6774
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.225200	2.652661	148.4164
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.223594	0.266546	14.9132
Brunei	Dollar	0.493822	0.588685	32.9369
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000082	0.000098	0.0055
Thailand	Baht	0.020415	0.024337	1.3617
UAE	Dirham	0.228421	0.272301	15.2352
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.192100	66.6980
Argentina	Peso	0.288514	0.343938	19.2433
Brazil	Real	0.374740	0.446728	24.9944
Denmark	Kroner	0.134016	0.159760	8.9386
India	Rupee	0.019004	0.022655	1.2675
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.222449	0.265182	14.8369
Mexico	New Peso	0.078295	0.093336	5.2221
New Zealand	Dollar	0.582013	0.693818	38.8191
South Africa	Rand	0.130080	0.155068	8.6761
Korea	Won	0.000804	0.000959	0.0537
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.025226	0.030072	1.6825

Inflation eased . . .

From page B1

total half a percentage point, the first during its policy rate meeting in April and the second last month. It has likewise raised the reserve requirement by two percentage points last July to mop up excess liquidity in the financial system.

Its key overnight borrowing rate now stood at 7.25 percent and the overnight lending at 9.5 percent.

"The BSP remains of the view that supply-side pressures are still likely to build over the next several quarters given the likelihood of continued high crude oil prices. Such a prospect not only increases the risk of second-round effects from cost-push factors but also poses a threat to inflation expectations, as the public may come to expect inflation to remain indefinitely at high levels," Tetangco said.

Business and cultural survival

MINDANAWORLD

Joji Ilagan Bian

MINDANAO IS HOME TO 18 Lumad tribes, 13 ethnic-linguistic Muslim tribes and more than 50 settler groups .

The beauty of our island lies on the diversity of its people and culture. It has been described as a "cultural tapestry" and there are efforts to preserve the heritage of our island, amidst an environment of poverty and want.

The *abaka* story of Iligan

Abaka is unique to the Philippines and it grows abundantly in Mindanao. This is often used as a material for currencies (bills) and other products.

The Maranaos and Kalibogans of Iligan City in Northern MIndanao are blessed with large tracts of land, equivalent to two-thirds of the whole of Iligan. It is planted to corn, coffee, banana, root crops and *abaka*.

Corn, banana and root crops are produced for subsistence since commercial production is not feasible due to high transport cost since there are only two improvised vehicles plying the route twice a day owing to poor roads.

Abaka grows in abundance but is not "seriously harvested". Since time immemorial, *abaka* forms part of these areas' landscape. The product used to be transported all the way to Cagayan de Oro City, but due to low buying price, the natives were discouraged from further planting them.

The farmers in the hinterlands of Iligan are faced with grave financial difficulties. They cannot even provide for their own decent meal while working in the fields. Imagine this—a one hectare plot needs workers for "tumbling "the stalks, hauling, stripping and bundling. A farmer would need 3 assistant workers to harvest and process the yield.

In her desire to improve the lives of these ethnic groups, Dr. Melchie Ambalong, a local resident and board member of the Mindanao Commission of Women, came to the rescue. She provides the farmers a sack of rice and a few kilos of dried fish for every one-hectare plot. Believe it or not, these worked miracles! The natives, with their stomach full, were able to harvest and process the fibers and deliver them to a trader. The farmers got 40 percent and the assistants got 60 percent.

Soon, a number of farmers came to Menchie for assistance. Driven by her desire to help, she put up her own buying station and employed people from the ethnic groups. She even provided a horse to the one in charge of controlling the quality of the stalks.

Pazaka came into being. At the start of the business, the natives performed a ritual to invoke the spirits of the land, the mountains, the rivers and the past generation of elders for blessings. It was also declared that they, the natives, will work hard to ensure the success of the buying station.

At the start, Pazaka provided 48 hand-held strippers, 20 tumbling bolos, 10 leaf scythes, and arranged for the transfer of the one and only "denting machine" from Davao to Iligan with the help of Mayor Lawrence Cruz of Iligan and the Fiber Industry Development Authority.

The need for more financial assistance to expand planting areas, better technical support for infestation control, access to market are some of the challenges ahead. What is important is that, today, the Higaonons and other tribes are gainfully doing business .

The Cultural Village

Lumad means rootedness to the land. Yet, today, the rooted people are being uprooted. The B'laans bewail treasure hunting and large scale mining in their ancestral domains. "They poison our land , our water and our very lives," they cry.

Logging companies wiped out the rainforest of the Ata-Manobo of Talaingod. A hydro electric project threatens the very existence of the homes of the Tagabawa Bagobos in Tudaya. "Our land is part of a protected area," said an elder.The reality is painful, we can no longer speak of an "authentic" ancestral home for our ethnic tribes that is free from influences and interventions of the outside world.

We have to balance economic development with environmental protection. The manner by which our laws are implemented is a reflection of the state of our forests, mangroves, rain forests and rivers. The outright abuse of our environment, brought about by corrupt officials and unscrupulous businessmen, is a sight that we see in some parts of Mindanao.

I am glad that my friends in the Department of Tourism, Sec. Durano and Regional Director Sonia Garcia, had initiated, among its flagship projects, the "Sustainable Tourism Industry Cluster." The focus areas of the cultural village project are in Talaingod, Davao del Norte (Ata Manobos); Tudaya (Tagabawa Bagobo), Atmurok and Kimlawis(B'laans) in Davao del Sur.

This endeavor recognizes the indigenous peoples' rights and their environment conservation efforts. Multi-stakeholders are encouraged to establish viable cultural enterprises and vibrant cultural tourism projects that respects the local culture of the people. This will result to the introduction of social, economic and financial infrastructure in the village benefiting the IP's in that area. This will ultimately bring a better quality of life, more jobs and more investments, without sacrificing their heritage.

(Email comments to jojibian2@yahoo.com)

Metrobank holds forum on UITF

METROBANK, THE COUNTRY'S LEADING bank, recently launched a series of fora designed to educate the public on the nature and benefits of Unit Investment Trust Funds (UITF).

According to Metrobank Trust Officer and executive vice president Josie Sulit, the investors' forum was hatched to orient possible investors on the new trust product, which was formerly known as Common Trust Funds.

The forum discusses the basics of investing, how to start an investment program, an economic briefing, and an open discussion to answer questions from participants.

Whether it's for achieving a definite investment goal, gaining access to high-yielding investment outlets via lower minimum participation or building up funds for education, travel plans and other major expenses, Metrobank has a UITF product that addresses the needs of each market segment with different risk appetites and investment horizons.

The investors' forum started last Sept. 27 at the Vivere Suites in Alabang Business District. The next forum is on Oct. 7 at the Hotel Intercontinental Manila, Oct. 13 in Bacolod, and Oct. 14 in Iloilo. It will run until December in key areas around the country.

NATURAL RESOURCES MINING DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
DENR Compound Visayas Ave.
Diliman, Quezon City
Tel. No. 9286760 / 9286765 / 9286837

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND BID

The Natural Resources Mining Development Corporation is inviting all interested suppliers to apply and submit sealed bids for the supply and delivery of the following:

	Approved Budget
One unit of Diesel Electric Generator set - 400 to 520kW (500 to 650kVA) prime; 440v @ 1800rpm 3ph 60Hz	PHP 3,900,000.00
One Unit of Electric Driven Air Compressor - Portable; 900 to 1,000cfm; 100 to 130psig; air cooled; 440v 3ph 60Hz oil injected; rotary screw; suitable for underground	3,000,000.00
One unit of Single Boom Jumbo Drill Mining Equipment For tunnel size approximately 3m x 3m; Engine: 6 cylinder diesel engine w/ a 121kw or 165Hp @ 2500rpm; air cooled w/ a two stage combustion system; individual cylinder & cylinder head assemblies; compact design; brand new or rebuilt, guaranteed A-1 running condition	22,000,000.00
One unit of Load, Haul and Dump Mining Equipment For tunnel size approximately 3m x 3m; Approximate hauling payload 2 to 3 tonnes Engine: 6 cylinder diesel engine w/ a 121kw or 165Hp @ 2500rpm; air cooled w/ a two stage combustion system; individual cylinder & cylinder head assemblies; compact design; brand new or rebuilt, guaranteed A-1 running condition	18,000,000.00
One unit of Low Profile Truck Mining Equipment For tunnel size approximately 3m x 3m; Approximate hauling payload 8 to 10 tonnes Engine: 6 cylinder diesel engine w/ a 121kw or 165Hp @ 2500rpm; air cooled w/ a two stage combustion system; individual cylinder & cylinder head assemblies; compact design; brand new or rebuilt, guaranteed A-1 running condition	20,200,000.00

CIF Brgy. Diwalwal, Monkayo, Compostela Valley

Eligibility forms and bidding documents shall be available for issuance at the above address c/o Lino M. Casilla starting September 29, 2005, from 9:30 A.M. to 3:30 P. M. and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P1,000.00 per bid documents.

Applications for eligibility and sealed bids shall be submitted to and registered with the NRMDC Purchasing Unit, at the above address not later than 2:00 p.m. (Purchasing Unit Wall Clock time) on the following dates:

EQUIPMENT	DATE
AIR COMPRESSOR	October 17, 2005
GENSET	October 18, 2005
SINGLE BOOM JUMBO DRILL / LHD / LPT	November 15, 2005

Public opening of bids shall follow immediately thereafter. Late bids shall not be accepted.

Prospective bidders shall signify conformance to the bidding terms and conditions, as required, and shall ensure the same through proper submission/execution. Source of funding is from Internal Cash Generation of NRMDC. All bids should be within the Approved Budget for the Contract in order to qualify.

Natural Resources Mining Development Corporation reserves the right to annul the bidding process, to reject any or all bids, to waive any informality in the bids received and to accept such bid which is most advantageous to NRMDC without thereby incurring liability to the affected bidder or bidders or any obligation to inform the affected bidder or bidders of the ground(s) for NRMDC's action.

(Sgd.) ZENAIDA A. ALFONSO
.Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI-Sept. 29 & Oct. 6, 2005)

Republic of the Philippines
Province of Iloilo
Municipality of Janiuay

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Government of the Philippines, through the Department of Land Reform (DLR) has received a loan from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) toward the cost of Agrarian Reform Communities Project (ARCP). It is intended that part of the proceeds of this loan will be applied to eligible payments under the contracts of Rural Infrastructure Component for which this Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid is issued.

The Local Government of Janiuay, Iloilo through the Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites contractors registered with and classified by the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) as "Medium A" or higher for similar contract to apply for eligibility and if found eligible, to bid for the hereunder contract:

Name of Contract	Jibolo-Balanac-Aguingay-Danao-Calmay ARC Road
Location	Janiuay, Iloilo
Brief Description	Road Rehabilitation/Improvement
Approved Budget Cost	Php 17,563,948.60
Contract Duration	132 Calendar Days

Prospective bidders should possess a valid PCAB License applicable to the contract, have completed a similar contract with a value of at least 50% of the ABC, and have key personnel and equipment (listed in the Eligibility Forms) available for the prosecution of the contract. The BAC will use non-discretionary pass/fail criteria in the Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids. The BAC will conduct post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security Pre-Bidding Conference, Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulation (IRR).

The schedule of BAC activities as follows:

	BAC Activities	Schedule
1	Receipt from prospective bidders of Letters of Intent (LOI) including Application for Eligibility	October 13-19, 2005
2.	Issuance of Eligibility Forms	October 13-19, 2005
3.	Receipt of Eligibility Requirements	October 19, 2005
4	Notice of Results of Eligibility Check	October 22, 2005
5.	Issuance of Bid Documents	October 25-31, 2005
6.	Pre-bid Conference	October 27, 2005, 10:00 AM
7.	Receipt and Opening of Bids	November 9, 2005, 10:00 AM

The BAC will issue to prospective bidders Eligibility Forms at BAC Secretariat, Municipal Hall, Janiuay, Iloilo, upon their submission of a LOI, and upon their payment of a non-refundable amount of Five Hundred Pesos (Php 500.00) to the LGU of Janiuays' Cashier. Prospective bidders shall submit the Eligibility Requirements to the BAC at the said address. They may also obtain the results of the Eligibility Check by the BAC at the same address.

All bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security in the following forms.

1. Cash/Certified Check/Cashier's Check/Manager's Check in the amount of one percent (1%) of ABC which is P175,639.49 and,
2. Surety Bond which is two and a half percent (2.5%) of ABC in the amount of P439,098.72 callable on demand and issued by the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS) or any reputable surety insurance company and to bid posted in favor of LGU - Janiuay, Iloilo

The BAC will issue Bidding Documents only to bidders declared by the BAC to be eligible for the bidding upon payment of a non-refundable amount of Five Thousand Pesos only (Php 5,000.00) to the LGU of Janiuay' Cashier.

The LGU of Janiuay assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of their bids

Approved by:

(Sgd.) Engr. Carmelo M. Masado
BAC Chairman

(PDI - Sept. 29 & Oct. 6, 2005)

Enterprise Solutions for the Small to Medium Enterprise

OPERATING IN TODAY'S DIFFICULT ECONOMIC environment has more and more companies searching for ways to increase their efficiency in order to remain competitive. More than ever, mid-sized businesses face the challenge of operating in an ever-changing global economy. Product life cycles that have been measured in terms of years are now measured in months or even weeks. From development to service, successful companies are leveraging process improvement and technology to continually reduce time to market and improve operating efficiencies.

In order to be competitive, mid-market enterprises need to be prepared to adapt their systems and business processes quickly. Companies must have business technologies that are intuitive, compliant and adaptive-and particularly for mid-market companies, the technology has to be accessible, easy to use and one that offers integration with existing applications at an affordable price.

Businesses require an integrated solution that will streamline processes by uniting individual systems for financials, manufacturing, distribution, and customer service. By putting the pieces together in a powerful technology resource that unites the disparate units of information in one comprehensive tool, operations are made more efficient, saving time and costs.

With these concerns in mind, Epicor Software comes up with the Epicor iScala, an integrated and industry specific solution for manufacturing, distribution, enterprise service automation, pharma and hospitality industries that helps in optimizing business processes, empowering companies to expand the value chain, grow revenue and drive efficiency benefits straight to the bottom line.

The iScala suite incorporates a new leading-edge technology capability that allows businesses to open up to the incredible potential of the globally extended enterprise. Designed specially for the mid-market companies, as well as the subsidiaries for larger enterprises that want cost-effective integrated enterprise solutions, it provides complete business management capabilities for companies doing business from anywhere in the world.

Both new and proven, iScala eliminates time-consuming and costly labor-intensive processes by automating the processes of buying and selling, manufacturing and supplying, being part of a supply chain and dealing with companies in different countries or on different continents. Additionally, iScala is equally capable when it comes to integrating the divisions of major companies, assisting them in acting as a single global entity, with each division and business unit connected to each other and with the headquarters.

The iScala software is based on proven implementations that have been installed at thousands of sites. In Philippines, successful companies such as the Hyatt International and Pan Pacific from the hospitality sector, Allied Domecq, Asian Institute of Management and Warner Home Video, as well as pharma companies like Schering and Organon have been using iScala.

For an SME, the road to selecting and implementing a technology solution doesn't have to be rocky. With a well-planned strategy and a business application specifically designed for the SME, the odds are the destination will be both fiscally and strategically successful.

For more information on iScala visit Poly-Asia e-Technology (Phils) Inc, for more details call them at tel. nos. 892-1494/894-0792 to 93 or visit them at the COMDDAP Expo 2005 at booth no. 4 of The COMDDAP Tent, Fort Global City, Taguig from Oct. 6 to 9. You can also visit the iScala website at www.epicor.com/www/products/iscala/ or sales@polyasia.com.ph.

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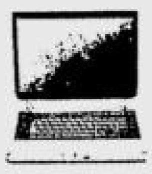

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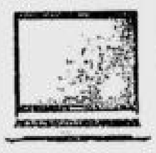

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intel inside centrino MOBILE TECHNOLOGY

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REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

COMM'L/RESD'L

MARIKINA

New2styComl cg 3M 9487112

QUEZON CITY

★ KATIPUNAN EXT ★ LA315 to 3648 CommlMainRd P9500-10T/m² 0918-9235216

OTHER AREAS

1409m² w/4Sty Bldg Q. Ave Nr Banawe P55M Rush Neg 1.4 Has w/ W'Hses w/Pasig River Frnt Sta Ana Mla P200M 5000m² V. Mapa Mla P120M Neg Call Dave 715-7038

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Lots, H&L C5 nr Fort
1.4M-13M Nr McKinley Hills 4-5br 10% DP or 3Yrs No Int or No DP 10mins Fr. Ayala 0917-8313226

MANDALUYONG

NEAR SHAW BLVD
BnewThse/3stry/3br/3-4tb maids1-2grgeP3 645M8903461

MARIKINA

Bnew 4br 3tb Jacuzl 3M 9487112

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REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

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Price: P13,145,050.25
For inquiries, please call:
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Asset Management and Disposition Division
Hotline No. 8119797

HOUSE & LOT

HOUSE & LOT

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RIZAL

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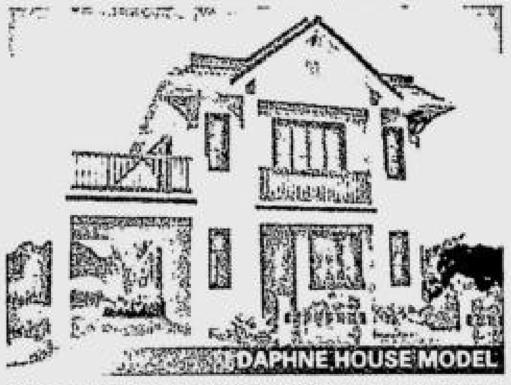

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MANILA

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MANDALUYONG

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PASIG

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QUEZON CITY

Cubao P1.5M 10%DP 5yrs to Pay 0% Int move-in 9126976

SAN JUAN

NEAR GREENHILLS
BnewThse/3stry/3br/3-4tb maids 1-2 grge P3.645Mup 8903461

LOT

QUEZON CITY

1161m² contact Arnulfo Go 9532616/09177494499 Coazar Go 09212257503 #9 14th St. New Manila QC

LAGUNA

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HOUSE

MAKATI

4BR Ros Grge Md's Rm 6075 Palma St. Rockwell nr Ateneo •T-8706706•

MANDALUYONG

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PASIG

4BR/TB 2Car 45TH 634-1212

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MANILA

1 & 2BR Nr.PGH 5634007/5891978

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REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
BUREAU OF IMMIGRATION
MAGALLANES DRIVE, INTRAMUROS
1002 MANILA

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Bureau of Immigration (BI) is inviting interested bidders to apply for eligibility and subsequently to bid for sanitation, maintenance and janitorial work and services to be rendered at the premises of (1) the BI Main Office, Intramuros, Manila, (2) the BI Detention Center, Bicutan, Metro Manila and at (3) BI-PEZA Building, Pasay City.

Prospective bidders may obtain eligibility requirements at the BAC Secretariat, General Services Section, 3rd Floor, Bureau of Immigration Main Office, Magallanes Drive, Intramuros, Manila from **10 to 14 October 2005** during office hours. Deadline for submission of duly accomplished eligibility documents shall be on **18 October 2005.** All applicants shall be notified on the result of the eligibility screening. Only eligible bidders shall be issued the approved scope of works and other bidding documents and requirements. Submission and opening of bids shall be announced on a later date.

The Bureau of Immigration reserves the right to reject any or all the bids without offering any reason, waive any required formality and accept the offer most advantageous to the government. The Bureau of Immigration likewise assumes no obligation to compensate or indemnify the bidders for any expenses or losses that may be incurred in the preparation of bids, nor does it guarantee that an award will be made.

(Sgd.) **TEODORO B. DELARMENTE**
Associate Commissioner
Chairman, BAC (General)

(PDI - September 29, October 3 & 6, 2005)

Republic of the Philippines
MANILA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT AUTHORITY
MIAA Administration Building, MIA Road,
Pasay City, Metro Manila

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

The MIAA management will be conducting a public hearing for the imposition of a Security and Development Charge of US$5.00 on all international departing passengers to be held on October 26, 2005 at 2:00 o'clock in the afternoon at the Board Room, 4th Floor, MIAA Administration Bldg., MIA Road, Pasay City.

This notice is hereby given to invite the public to participate in said hearing.

(Sgd.) **ALFONSO G. CUSI**
General Manager

(PDI – October 6 & 11, 2005)

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TOYOTA

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99 HI-ACE GL GAS 2TONE GRANDIA LUK 09195714679

Granvia 520Tup 09266911125

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1% Easy Car Loan 3748765

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1% Easy Carloan 7815352/55

1% w/o taking car 7880183-84

1% w/oTaking Car 7221021

1% w/oTaking Car 3732081/82

1% w/oTaking Car 3650974/75

1% w/oTaking Car 7228942-43

1% w/oTaking Car 8959454

1% w/out taking car 5315577

1% w/out taking car 7262780

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1.5% CARLOAN 373-6519

1.5% CARLOAN 788-0361

1Hour Car Loan 9153460
2%w/o taking car 6560140

1%w/oTaking Car 8966630/33

PUBLIC NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE

EXTRAJUDICIAL SETTLEMENT of the estate of Pedro G. Matias and Salud S. Matias has been executed by their children under Doc.306 ; Page 83 ; Book 11 Series of 2004 dated 26 July 2004 of Notary Public Victor P. Gener of Macalelon Quezon (PDI Sept. 22 - 29 Oct. 6 '05)

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late JUAN B. CRUZ JR. has been extrajudicially settled by his heirs as per Doc. No. 147, Page No. 31, Book No. 39A, Series of 2004 before Notary Public Lope M. Velasco of Makati City.
(PDI- Sept. 29, Oct. 6 & 13, 2005)

PERSONAL

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GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

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YOUR ARE ON Make sure to try Therabreath™ Kit system Guaranteed to eliminate *bad breath, bitter/sour taste, phlegm in throat, pasty saliva and awful morning breath*
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TransCo
National Transmission Corporation
Reference : BCMD-APB-p05-998
Date : October 4, 2005

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

Construction and Installation of 230 & 69kV Substation Equipment & Various Facilities for Gamu Substation

Installing and/or erecting high voltage equipment such as 50 MVA Power Transformer including accessories; 230 & 69 kV Power Circuit Breakers, its associated Disconnect Swiches and instrument transformers including metering, control, protection, communication; Site development and construction of Control house, Pump House and Guardhouse.

The Project is located at Barangay Linglingay, Gamu, Isabela in the Northern part of Luzon.

1 **The NATIONAL TRANSMISSION CORPORATION (TRANSCO), through the Annual Corporate Budget for the contract approved by the governing Board,** intends to apply the sum of **PhP 61,523,236.00**, being the Approved Budget for Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for the **Construction and Installation of 230 & 69 kV Substation Equipment and Various Facilities for Gamu Substation (Sp05.GMUSS.Lc-0049).** Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.

2. **TRANSCO** now calls for the submission of Letters of Intent (LOIs) from potential Bidders to apply for eligibility for **furnishing labor, materials, equipment (except materials and equipment specified to be furnished by TransCo), supplies, tools and technical services including hauling, delivery and installing of high voltage substation equipment and other works to complete the project as detailed in the Bill of Quantities** Bidders must possess a valid PCAB license applicable to the above type and cost of the contract, and shall have completed a similar contract with a value of at least fifty percent (50%) of the ABC, and meet the other minimum eligibility requirements stated in the Eligibility Documents. Interested Bidders must submit their LOIs on or before **October 28, 2005, 9:00 a.m.** at the address given below and secure the Eligibility Documents therefrom upon payment of a non-refundable fee of **PhP 800.00** per copy. Applications for eligibility shall be evaluated on a non-discretionary **"pass/fail"** basis. The last day for the submission of the accomplished Eligibility Documents shall be on the date of the opening of Eligibility Documents **October 28, 2005, 9:00 a.m. at Wenceslao Dela Paz Function Room, Power Training Center Building, National Transmission Corporation, Power Center, Quezon Avenue corner BIR Road, Diliman, Quezon City.** Only those Bidders passing the eligibility check will be entitled to purchase the Bidding Documents. PCAB License and Registration Particular required should be as follows:
License Particular : **at least Category "A", SP-Electrical Works**
Registration Particular : **at least "Medium B", SP-Electrical Works**

3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures as specified in Part A of the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act", and is restricted, unless otherwise stated, to organizations with at least seventy-five percent (75%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines. Pursuant to the above, only Bids from eligible Bidders will be opened. A contract will only be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder who was determined as such during post-qualification.

4 Interested Bidders shall submit their accomplished Eligibility Documents to the BAC Secretariat at the address given above on or before **9:00 a.m. of October 28, 2005.**

5. Interested Prospective Bidders may obtain further information from **TRANSCO** and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from **8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. starting October 25, 2005.**

6. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by Bidders that passed the eligibility check upon the presentation of the Notice of Eligibility to the BAC Secretariat, at the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of **PhP 7,000.00.** The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the bidder or his authorized representative from **8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. starting November 18, 2005.**

7 **TRANSCO** will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all Eligible Bidders at **1:30 p.m. of December 7, 2005, venue to be announced later.**

8 Eligible Bidders must submit their Bids at the address below on or before **9:00 a.m. of December 19, 2005.** All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security in any form and in amount stated in the Bidding Documents or an equivalent amount in a freely convertible currency. Late Bids shall not be accepted. Bid opening shall be on **December 19, 2005 at exactly 9:00 a.m.** Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address to be announced later.

9. The Contractor shall complete the works within **Three Hundred (300) calendar days** counted from the effectivity date stated in the "Notice to Proceed"

10. **TRANSCO** reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to the contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

MR. JOSE MARI M. ILAGAN
Manager, Bids and Contracts Management Department
Ground Floor, TransCo Main Building
National Transmission Corporation
Power Center, Quezon Avenue corner BIR Road
Diliman, Quezon City, Philippines
Telephone No.: 981-2308, 981-2212; 981-2213
Facsimile No.: 921-2308
E-mail Address: jmilagan@transco.ph
Website address: www.transco.ph

(Sgd.) **GUILLERMO R. REDOBLADO**
VP-Luzon Operation & Maintenance
& Chairman, Bids & Awards Committee

(PDI - Oct. 6 & 13, 2005)

Republic of the Philippines
Province of Tarlac
MUNICIPALITY OF SAN JOSE

INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)

Date : Oct. 6, 2005
Contract ID No. : SP-072-IN-01
World Bank Loan No. : 4446 PH

1. The Government of the Philippines has received a loan from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development towards the cost of Local Government Finance and Development and intends to apply part of the funds to cover eligible payments under the Contract for the Construction of ***8-units 2-Classroom School Buildings.*** Bidding is open to all bidders from eligible source countries as defined in the *Guidelines: Procurement under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits.*

2. The Municipality of San Jose, Tarlac invites sealed bids from eligible sources for the Construction of ***8-units, 2 Classroom School Buildings:***
   - ***1-unit, 2-classroom bldg. @ Maamot, Elem. School***
   - ***1-unit, 2-classroom bldg. @ Pisapungan, Elem. School***
   - ***1-unit, 2-classroom bldg. @ Mababanaba, Elem. School***
   - ***1-unit, 2 classroom bldg. @ San Juan de Moriones, Primary School***
   - ***2-units, 2-classroom bldg. @ Sta. Cruz, Primary School***
   - ***2-units, 2-classroom bldg. @San Pedro Elem. School***

3. Bidding documents may be purchased starting ***Oct. 7, 2005 from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at BAC Secretariat Office of the MPDC, Municipal Hall, San Jose, Tarlac*** upon payment of a non-refundable fee of *Four Thousand Pesos (P4,000.00)* or its equivalent in a freely-convertible currency, for each set. Interested bidders may obtain further information at the same address.

4. Bids shall be valid for a period of ***ninety (90) days*** after bid opening and must be accompanied by a bid security of ***Two Hundred Thousand Pesos (P200,000.00)*** in a form of cash, certified check, bank guarantee in a form specified in the bidding data and shall be delivered to the ***Office of the BAC Chairman, Office of the MPDC, Municipal Hall, San Jose, Tarlac on or before November 15, 2005; 10 o'clock A.M.*** at which time they will be opened in the presence of the bidders who wish to attend.

5. A pre-bid conference will be held on ***Oct. 28, 2005; 9:00 A.M. at the Office of the Mayor, Municipal Hall, San Jose, Tarlac.***

(Sgd.) JIMMY C. DANCEL
BAC Chairman

(PDI – October 6, 2005)

GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

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•Bachelor of Secondary Education; or
•Bachelor's Degree plus 18 professional units in Education with appropriate major preparation;
•No experience required; Eligibility: LPT

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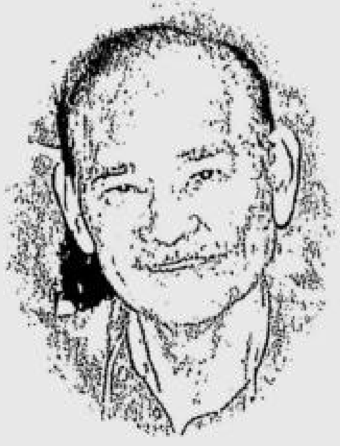
OBITUARIES

Domingo E. Garcia



has returned to the Father at the age of 76 on October 2, 2005. His bereaved wife, children, grandchildren, relatives and friends request your prayers for the repose of his soul. His remains lie in state at the Knights of Columbus Hall, St. Ferdinand Parish, Lucena City.

A Mass shall be offered at 8AM at the Holy Rosary Catholic School. Interment will be on Saturday, October 8, 2005 at 10AM at the St. Ferdinand Memorial Park, Lucena City.

"Do not stand there at my grave and weep;
I am not there, I do not sleep.
I am a thousand winds that blow.
I am the diamond glints on snow.
I am the sunlight on ripened grain.
I am the gentle autumn's rain
When you awaken in the morning's hush;
I am the swift uplifting rush.
Of quiet birds in circled flight.
I am the soft stars that shine at night.
Do not stand there at my grave and cry.
I am not there. I did not die"

In Memory of the

(25) Twenty Five Years
Death Anniversary
of

ILLUMINADA SANTIAGO ROXAS

who died October 06, 1980

Her loving husband **JOSE ROXAS, SR.** (†); children: **MOISES, FELISA, ANGELES, CLARITA, REMEDIOS** (†), **ARSENIO, REYNALDO, JOSE JR., ROSALINDA** (†), **DOLORES,** and **RICARDO** (†), her grandchildren, great-grandchildren, relatives & friends request the pious reader to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Mass will be held today, **October 06, 2005** at **5:00 p.m.** at
Ancestral Home, Hulo Obando, Bulacan.

"...absent from the body to be present with the Lord."
2 Corinthians 5:8

Home is the sailor, home from the seas...

THE PHILIPPINE MILITARY ACADEMY
CLASS OF 1958

Announces with deep sorrow the passing away of their beloved **MISTAH**

COMMODORE

SAMUEL G. TOLENTINO, AFP (RET)

December 1, 1931 - September 30, 2005

His loving wife, **Chit Castillo Tolentino, their children, grandchildren, and the families of PMA Class 58** request all to pray to the Almighty to embrace him in eternal rest.

Interment rites will be on
Thursday, October 6, 2005
in Glendale, California, U.S.A.

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.

Always caring..
INQUIRER OBITUARIES

OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:
❶ Copy of Death Certificate;
❷ Any identification document (I.D.)

DEATH ANNOUNCEMENT • MESSAGE OF THANKS •
DEATH ANNIVERSARY • REQUIEMS •
FREE OBIT DESIGN

"Only your best is good enough for your mission."
- General Atienza

In Loving Memory

On the 39th Death Anniversary of

GENERAL RIGOBERTO J. ATIENZA

Former Chief of Staff
Armed Forces of the Philippines
who died on October 8, 1966

His children Zenaida and David Clymer, Eloisa and Victor Lim, Herminia Atienza-Ilano, Rosalinda and Balbino Hernando, Rolando and Cecilia Reynoso-Atienza, and Josefina Atienza-Salvaña, grandchildren and great-grandchildren invite relatives and friends to remember him in their prayers and to join them tomorrow, Friday, October 7, 2005 in the offering of the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass at Camp. Gen. Rigoberto J. Atienza, Libis, Quezon City at 3:00 p.m., after which will be the annual Gen. Rigoberto J. Atienza Memorial Awards Ceremonies and the Blessing of the Camp Gen. Atienza Library. On Saturday, October 8, 2005, Holy Mass will also be offered at graveside at the Libingan ng mga Bayani, Fort Bonifacio, Makati City at 9:00 a.m. and at military chapels throughout the country.

We invite you to also remember his wife **EUGENIA SUAREZ ATIENZA** who died on June 22, 1995.

The Management and Staff
of the
Center for International Trade Expositions and Missions (CITEM)
recommend to your prayers

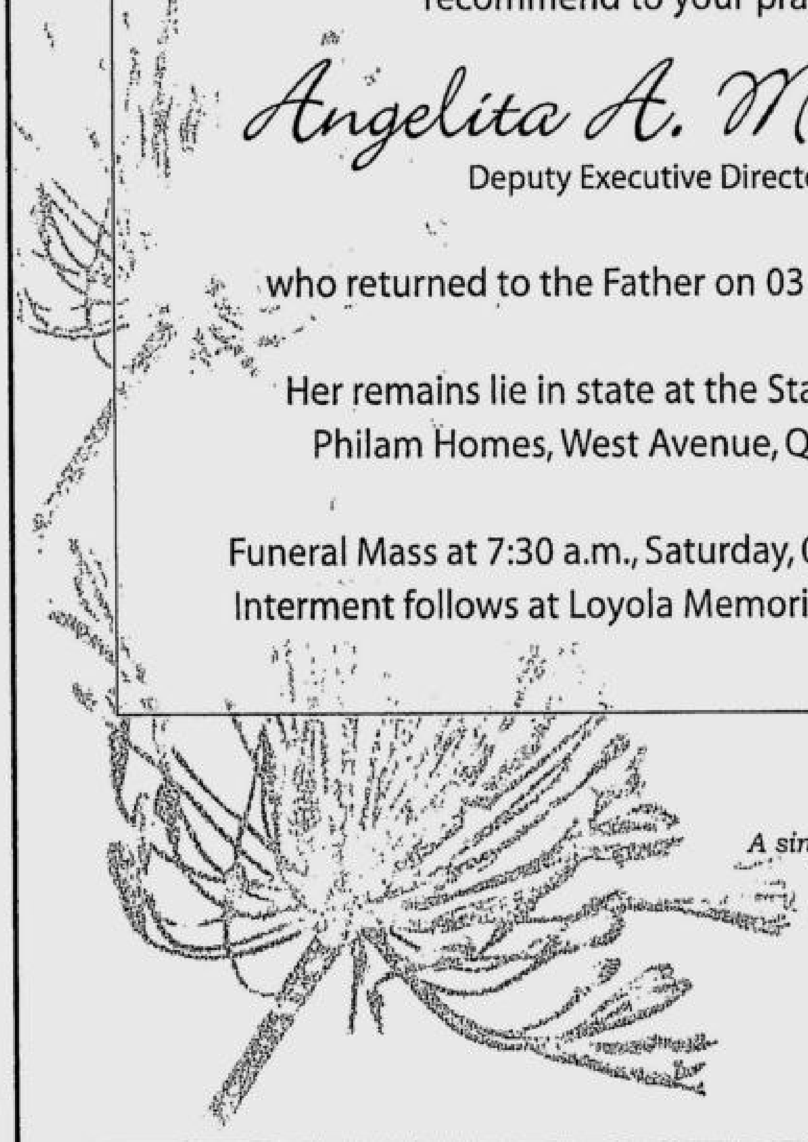
Angelita A. Madulid

Deputy Executive Director

who returned to the Father on 03 October 2005

Her remains lie in state at the Sta. Rita Chapel
Philam Homes, West Avenue, Quezon City

Funeral Mass at 7:30 a.m., Saturday, 08 October 2005
Interment follows at Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina



My Life t'is but an instant,
an hour that passes by
A single day that slips my grasp
and quickly slides away
O well you know dear God!
to love you before I die
I only have today!...

St. Therese of Lisieux

PAUL DANIEL PERRINE

Passed away in the Grace of our Lord on October 3, 2005 at the age of 84.

The family is requesting prayers for the eternal repose of his soul.

Memorial services will be offered in Manila and Cagayan de Oro City on dates to be later announced.

In lieu of flowers, donations to the Xavier University, Ateneo de Cagayan (The Paul D. Perrine Chair) would be greatly appreciated.

Tariff differential sought by refiners opposed

By Abigail L. Ho

THE INDEPENDENT PHILIPPINE Petroleum Companies Association (Ippca) is strongly opposing moves to alter the tariff structure for imported crude and refined petroleum products to give refiners preferential treatment.

The group vowed to bring their opposition up to the Supreme Court if the government would decide in the refiners' favor.

"The government should not let itself be blackmailed by any investor into giving so much incentives, to the detriment of those who entered the market on the premise of a level playing field," Ippca chair Fernando Martinez told the INQUIRER.

He said oil refiners should not use the threat of a refinery closure to gain enough leverage in negotiating with the government for a tariff differential between crude and refined petroleum products, as well as for any other forms of incentives.

The current margins enjoyed by refiners Petron Corp. and Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corp. should be enough incentive for them to stay in the refinery business, he said.

Based on regional benchmarks, he said crude was priced $15 to $20 per barrel lower than those of refined petroleum products.

"This is a huge price difference. Refiners should already see this as an incentive to them, for their investments in operating refineries and even for future expansion," he said.

Shell general manager for external affairs Roberto Kanapi earlier said the oil firm would decide by next year whether to expand its refinery here or shut it down completely.

He said Shell was taking into consideration the competitive environment in the region's downstream oil sector and the additional concessions from the government.

The oil firm is waiting for the government's decision on the provision of a tariff differential between crude and finished products, as well as on possible new incentives for oil refiners, he said.

He added that Shell was also eyeing a 12-percent return on rate base (RORB), something that oil firms were assured of during the regulated regime.

Right now, he said the oil firm was only posting an RORB of only 3 percent to 4 percent.

"We really want to know what the government's strategy is with respect to refineries. Are they happy with just one refinery? Why is it that nobody's investing in the country? The government should make it (the environment) right and good for people to invest," he said.

Martinez said, however, that a tariff differential was neither fair nor legal.

Not only would this discriminate against small oil players, but that particular provision was exactly why the first version of the Oil Deregulation Law was rescinded by the Supreme Court in the '80s, he said.

"It's not fair. Only Petron and Shell will earn in that scenario," he added.

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ICT CONSUMERS BENEFIT FROM COMDDAP EXPO 2005

Amid the rising cost of goods and services due to fuel price increases and the expected higher prices when the expanded value-added tax (eVAT) law is implemented, consumers may find relief in technology exhibit-sale events that offer discounted or bundled rates for products that are currently available or will be launched in the market.

One of these is the annual COMDDAP EXPO, reputably the country's biggest computer and technology exposition for the past 19 years. Last year, around 40,000 visitors attended the three-day selling exhibit.

At the COMDDAP EXPO 2005, enterprise and home-based consumers upgrading their computers, electronic and personal gadgets and those looking for affordable alternatives to established brands for software and solutions will benefit from lower prices offered by more than 40 companies from information and communications technology [ICT], telecommunications and consumer electronics industries.

First-ever COMDDAP Tent

"This is the biggest gathering of technology and computer companies in the history of COMDDAP, and we're excited that this year's exposition will be held at our very own 2,000-square-meter custom-built exposition venue," said Gigi Ngui, EXPO 2005 chairperson.

COMDDAP EXPO 2005, organized by the Computer Manufacturers, Distributors and Dealers Association of the Philippines (COMDDAP), is slated on October 6-9 at the COMDDAP Tent (open field across PriceSmart) at Fort Global City in Taguig City bannered by the theme, "Ideas in Leaps".

Over the years, COMDDAP EXPO has redefined the way ICT expositions are held and managed. This year's EXPO showcases the dynamism of the ICT industry – leaping higher than most would expect and creating new grounds for further growth.

The COMDDAP Tent is a solid proof that "to think is to create". The selling exhibit will also run for four days instead of three to give consumers more time to browse the products of, interact with and attend technology updates organized by the exhibitors.

Interactive knowledge-sharing

"We want the public not only to see product displays but also to learn and enjoy the interactive process where the exhibitors educate the consumers on how to maximize the use of technologies," said Ngui.

More than basic computer hardware, software and peripherals, consumers will find the latest products, gadgets and solutions from industry leaders Canon Marketing Phils., Inc., Epson Phils. Corp., Microsoft Phils. Inc., Samsung Electronics Phils., Inc., Sony Phils., Inc., Toshiba and Wordtext Systems, Inc., which are sponsoring the four-day event.

They will also learn more from exhibitors Asian Technologies, Inc., Astech Pengson Distributors, Inc., ATP Peripherals Phils., Inc., Columbia Global Photo Sales, Eastern Telecoms, Eastgate Computer Corp., Eastern Telecoms, E-Methods for Business Management Corp., E-Novation Digimer Corp., Glee Electronics, Goldtech International Distributors, Inc., IGlobe Technology, LAMCO International, Microdata Systems Management, Inc., Microwarehouse, Inc./Linksys, Nexus Technologies, Inc., PC Trends, Inc., PLDT, Poly Asia E-Technology Phils., Inc., Redwood Ventures, Inc., Tricom Dynamics, Inc. and Trinity Marketing, Inc.

Special events

Among the innovative activities at COMDDAP EXPO 2005 are the search for Manila's fastest personal computer (PC) assembler and best digital animator.

"Manila's Fastest Gun!" challenges the computer building skills of IT practitioners and enthusiasts in Metro Manila. Contestants compete during daily qualifying rounds where they build a fully functioning PC in minutes. Grand champion will be adjudged among daily winners at the finals on Oct 9.

Meanwhile, local digital artists and illustrators showcase their creative and technical skills through Macromedia's "Flash Festival 2005", a digital animation competition that recognizes the creative talents of Filipino digital artists.

Free shuttle service

COMDDAP EXPO runs from 10am to 7pm. The first day, October 6, is open to trade visitors only. Attendees will enjoy free admission, ample parking slots and complimentary shuttle service every 30 minutes to and from COMDDAP Tent and pick-up and drop-off points at the at the Ayala Center parking lot, near Park Square 1, Pasay Road (side of Rapide's Service Center) or Fort Global City.

Supporting COMDDAP EXPO 2005 are Chase Technologies Corp., Imatech Corp. and PLDTmyDSL. Media Partners are Computerworld Philippines, Directories Philippines Corp., Hardware Zone Philippines, PC Buyer's Guide, PC World, Speed Magazine and Yehey.com.

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Editor **Chelo Banal-Formoso**

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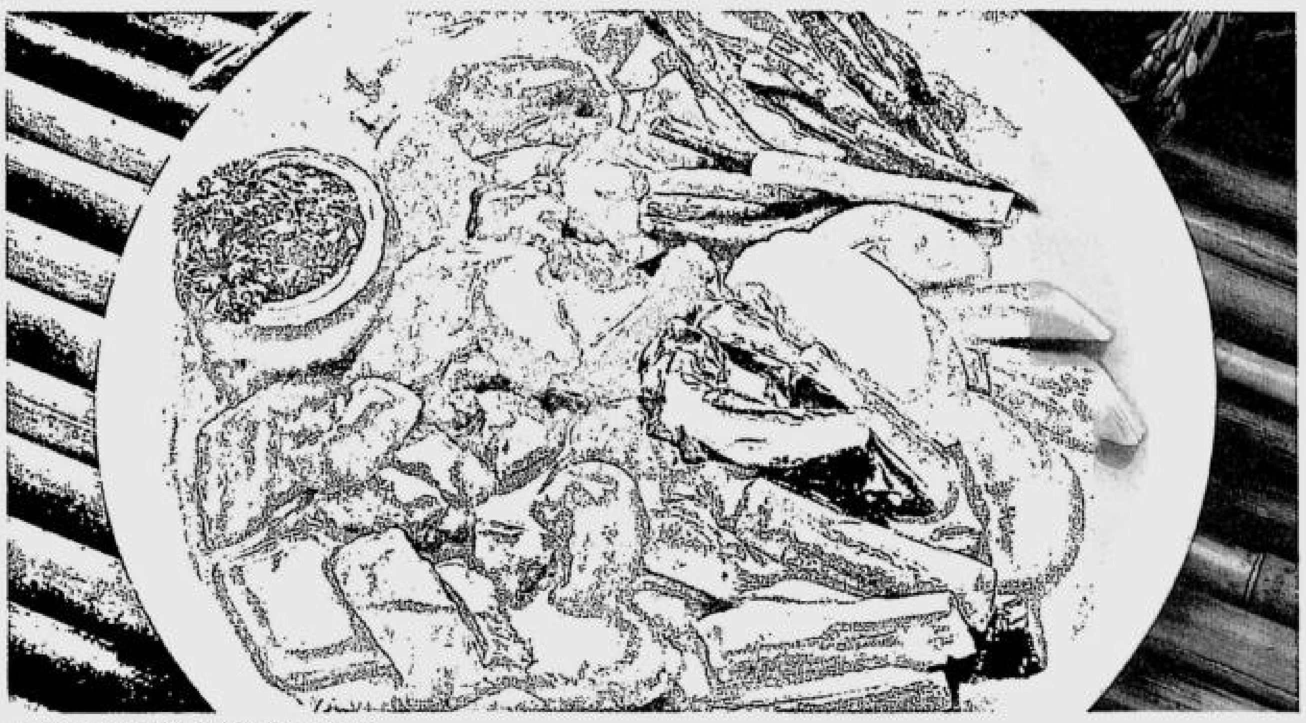


THE MUCH-BELOVED *kare-kare*

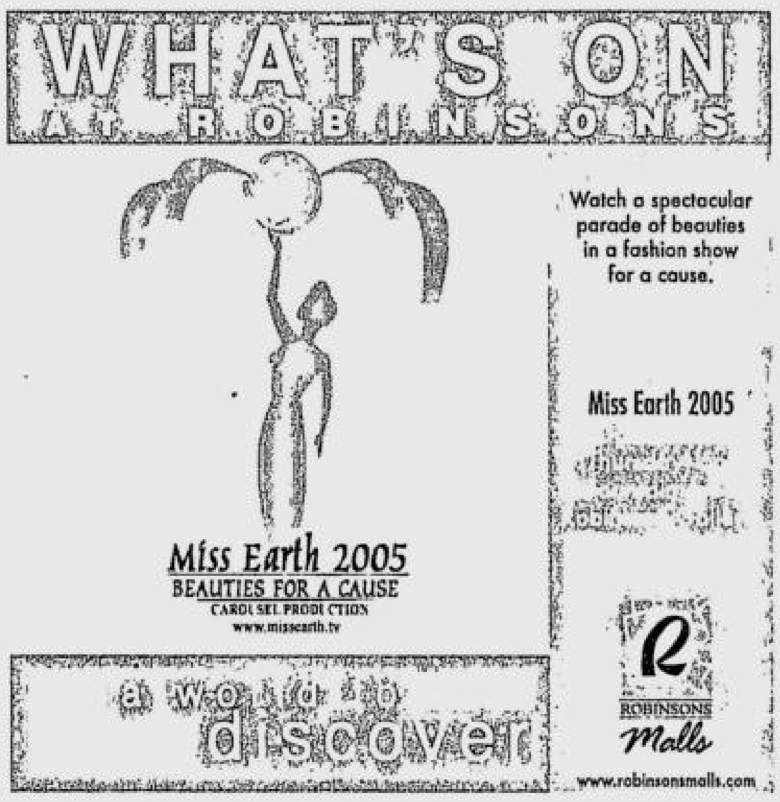
It's Indian but it's not curry

KITCHEN RESCUE

Reggie Aspiras

A MONTH OR SO ago, Butch Fonacier asked me for the origin of *kare-kare*. Not wanting to take on the topic alone, I asked Gene Gonzales and Claude Tayag for their thoughts on the subject and, as in any healthy democracy... people agreed, disagreed, agreed to disagree, and some just truly didn't care.

IT'S INDIAN/ C3



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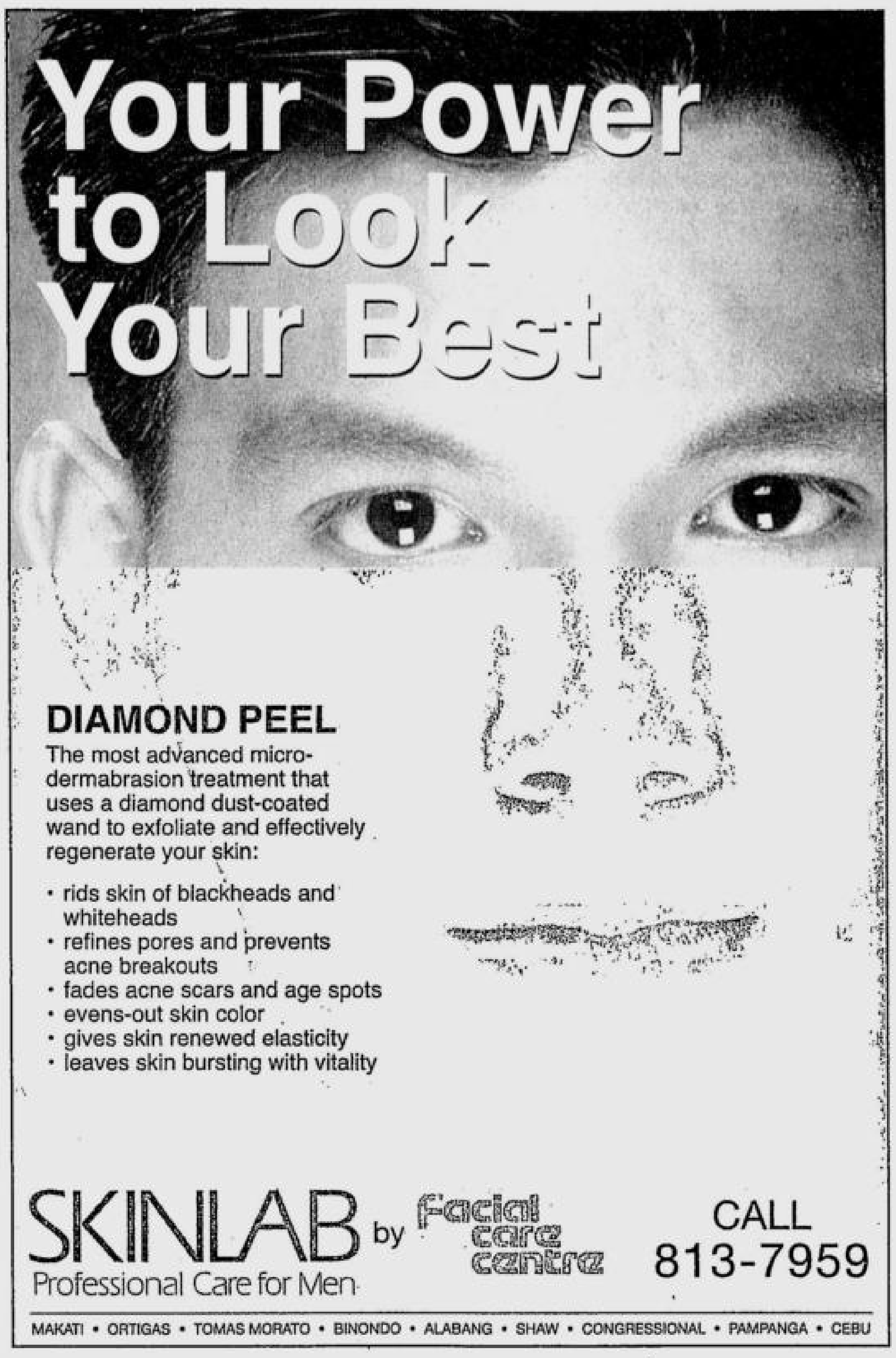
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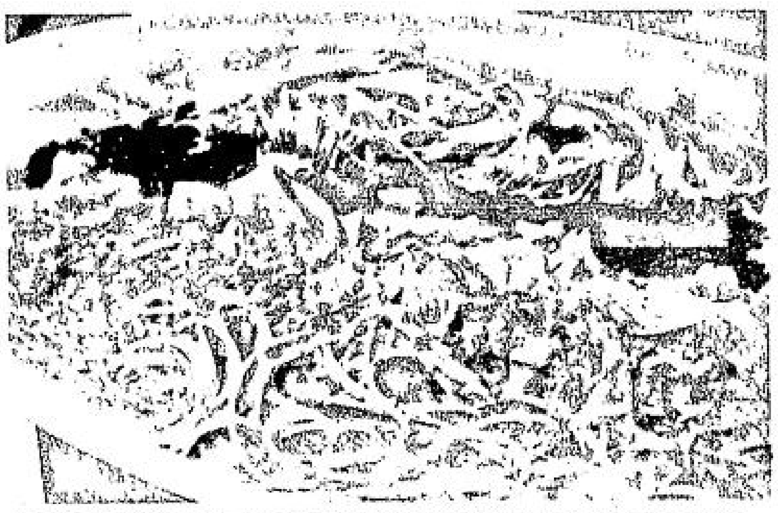


SPAGHETTINI Integrale in lemon cream with smoked salmon and Spanish Caviar by Gaita Fores is as pleasing to the eye as to the palate.

JESSIE Sincioco's Grilled Organic Ostrich Steak with lavender honey sauce and served with mesclun greens and white asparagus is a healthy option for steak lovers.

LITTLE Ears pasta in a Grappa-spiked tomato cream sauce is what Fores' Orecchiette alla Grappa is all about.

A tasteful addition

Text by Linda B. Bolido
Photos by Raffy Lerma

WITH HYPERMARTS increasingly getting the business of people who buy grocery items in large volumes, Rustan has opted to take a different tack.

Rustan Supermarket gave way to Rustan's Fresh as the chain reinvented itself into something in-between a convenience store and a hypermart—offering more diverse products and in bigger quantities than mini-marts but not quite in the volume and range of the hypermarts.

Moreover, it turned grocery-ing upside down, rather inside out. With the opening of its branch in Rockwell Center's Power Plant Mall, Rustan introduced a shift in focus. Instead of putting its dry grocery goods "forward," the chain drew shoppers' attention to its—as the change in name implies—fresh produce department.

Reportedly conceptualized in 2001, Rustan's wanted to make supermarket shopping a sensually delightful experience for clients by letting them enjoy the sight, sound, touch, smell and taste of the various goods on offer.

The shift in focus has dovetailed quite well with the requirements of the areas where Rustan's Fresh branches are situated. The stores are typically in the middle of mix office-residential areas.

Office workers, grabbing a quick lunch or rushing to go home can zip into a Fresh branch, make a few quick purchases to cook something from scratch or to replenish household essentials that are running low. For residents in nearby condominiums, it probably has become a little like a classy neighborhood *sari-sari* store or mini-grocery, allowing people to dash in and out for ingredients for a cooking project or whatever else may be suddenly required.

And now Rustan's is carving itself a brand-new niche in the supermarket business. As it prepares to celebrate its 35th anniversary this November, Rustan's has launched another new concept in supermarket shopping.

ONE of Fores' finds at Taste—canned Alis whole peeled Italian tomatoes that she used in her Orechiette.

Specialty food

Initially located at Rustan's Fresh Makati, the new Taste is offering food lovers, food experts, health buffs and everyone who is very particular about his/her food what is meant to be "the most extensive variety of premium specialty foods from the best food cultures of the world."

At Taste, different sections are clearly marked so you don't have to wander all over the place looking for the authentic Italian ingredients for your fettuccini alfredo, wasabi for your sushi dip, or suitable rice for your paella.

You can go on a culinary tour of the world by just going through the shelves of Taste with its French, Mediterranean, Japanese, Thai, Mexican, Italian, Spanish, American and Indian (Asian not American) selections, among others.

Whether you are an expert cook or an amateur simply wanting to capture a particular taste even just once in your life, you are likely to find Taste just right for your taste.

Professional chefs and restaurateurs Margarita Fores, owner of Cibo and Pepato, and Le Soufflé's Jessie Sincioco showed during a recent cooking demonstration at Yum Yum Tree in Rustan Fresh Makati just what a convenience it was to have Taste. Fores and Sincioco proved how easy it was to whip up Italian and French dishes by just going through Taste's shelves.

Maricar Tiangco, Rustan Supermarkets vice president for marketing and merchandising, said that after Makati, Rustan would likely open the next Taste section at Power Plant Mall.

You don't have to check every shelf to find ingredients for your fettuccini, wasabi for your sushi, or rice for your paella

SINCIOCO shows off her Multigrain Pancake topped with Jalancina peach, pear and fig compote and raspberry ice cream.

Brewing a Philippine bestseller

By Constantino C. Tejero

COFFEE IS THE SECOND MOST-CONSUMED beverage in the world (after water), drunk by two out of three people. That's at least 1.1 billion cups a day.

It is the world's largest food crop, and the second most traded commodity (after petroleum), grown in some 70 countries, 60 of which exporters.

In Asia, the Philippines is second to Japan in coffee consumption, from espresso to instant coffee. So it doesn't always follow that "the colder the climate, the higher the coffee consumption."

The Philippines has to import P2.5 billion worth of coffee a year, or about 32 percent of domestic consumption.

Just over a century ago, the country was the fourth top coffee producer in the world. But now it is 27th on the International Coffee Organization's list.

Production cost (equipment, labor, transportation) has exceeded the price of coffee, making it unattractive to farmers. Conversion of farmlands to subdivisions and golf courses has worsened the situation.

Last year's production was only 50 percent of the average during the 1990s. We stopped exporting locally grown coffee in 1997.

Armed with these facts, the National Coffee Development Board (NCDB), a private sector-led group, aims to revive and promote the Philippine coffee industry.

The group, in cooperation with Ayala Center, is holding the annual festival Coffee Break to allow people to sample Philippine coffees from north to south. With 14 participants and the theme "Destination Coffee," the festival is ongoing until Oct. 16 on the ground floor of Glorietta 4 in Makati City.

Although there are only four coffee varieties—Robusta, Excelsa, Arabica and Liberica—nuances of flavor vary depending on the region where the bean is grown. Soil, rainfall and land elevation affect the taste. That's why Arabica in Sagada wouldn't taste the same as one grown in Benguet.

(It's like wine and grape varieties. If you're looking for aroma, go Arabica. For body, Robusta.)

"The higher the elevation, *mas masarap ang* coffee," says NCDB member Guillermo Luz, representing the Makati Business Club.

Robusta
National Coffee Development Board

THERE are only four varieties of coffee but infinite number of flavors.

PHOTOS FROM NATIONAL COFFEE DEVELOPMENT BOARD

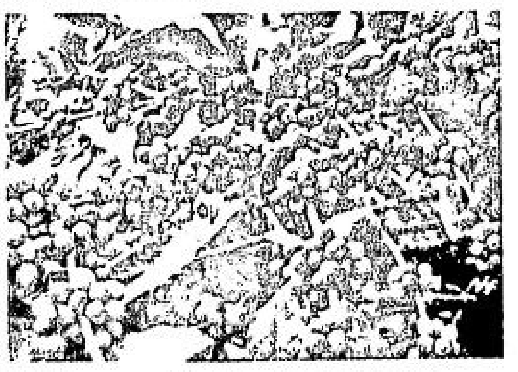
Created by President Macapagal-Arroyo in 2002 as the National Task Force on Coffee Rehabilitation, the NCDB has 12 members including growers, millers, roasters, retailers, local governments and agriculture credit sectors.

The group supports the industry through technical assistance and credit program for coffee farms; certification of farms, millers and roasters; and marketing and promotion for domestic and export markets.

Seal of approval

Aside from holding the annual festival to showcase Philippine coffees (the first was in Amadeo, Cavite, in 2002), the group also gives its seal of approval, Kape Isla, to accredited roasters, merchants and retailers "to indicate that their products represent quality Philippine coffees." Foreign franchises may participate so long as they also sell Philippine-grown coffee.

As of now, 28 coffee shops and merchants have gotten the seal of approval, including: Basri's Brew, Batangas Brew/Café Barako de Lipa, Bean Central Roastery/BC Coffee, Blugre Coffee, Bo's Coffee, Boyd Coffee, Café Amadeo, Café Breton, Coffee Dream, Coffee Nook, Commonwealth Foods/Café Puro, Cordillera Coffee, Cravings Group/The Coffee Beanery, Culinary Exchange, Dunkin' Donuts, Figaro, Gloria Jean's Coffees, Gourmet's Coffee, Holsum Foods/Café de Oro, McCafé, Mocha Blends, Monk's Blend, Philippine Mountain Coffee, Seattle's Best, Siete Baraco, Starbucks, Sugar n' Beans Coffee Co., The Coffee Experience.



LIKE grapes, coffee berries are affected by soil, rainfall and land elevation..

During the festival, NCDB is also conducting seminars.

"Coffee 101," to be held 10 a.m.-12 noon, Oct. 15, Oakwood Premier at the Ayala Center, will teach the basics of coffee; varieties of beans; the beans' path from the farm to the cup; coffee-making equipment; how to brew the perfect cup of coffee; factors affecting coffee quality; how to get started in the coffee-shop business.

"Sustainable Coffee and Vegetable Farming," 2-4 p.m., Oct. 21, Asian Institute of Management Conference Center, 2/F, Benavidez Street, Legaspi Village, Makati City, will teach how to choose the best locations for coffee farms; the best time to plant coffee; how to choose the right varieties for particular locations; field preparation, planting and coffee tree care in a sustainable, organic farming context. Vegetables are inter-cropped with coffee trees, thus the course on vegetable farming.

"In the festival, we're emphasizing the origins of the coffees, whether from Bukidnon, Batangas, Cordillera," says Luz.

Having dropped from 4th top coffee producer to 27th, the country is out to regain past glory

THE COFFEE festival at Glorietta in Makati is open to those in search of the perfect cup (above); flowering in March, the coffee tree takes nine months to yield harvest (left)

It's Indian but it's not curry

From page C1

I received messages claiming it was of Mexican descent, a spin-off of the Modongo. Another claimed it was a peasant dish during the Spanish era, made from unwanted cuts of meat.

Real origin

I never took on the subject again until I had something more substantial and I thank Dr. Ricky Soler, a family friend, for having been kind enough to go through the whole trouble of figuring out the real origin of our much-beloved *kare-kare*. To me he wrote:

Dear Reggie,

You may be surprised but not only do I read your column quite regularly but also have the most interesting ones clipped by my girl. Last Thursday's feature on the *durian*—really a myth more than a legend—plus the fact that Max Talreja invited me last night to a glorious dinner at his fabulous Prince of Jaipur restaurant brought to mind your previous column on whether *kare-kare* was from "curry."

So this morning I went to my Reggie files and re-read the column, which even on my first reading I found had some basic—and I use the word cautiously—"misconceptions" about this wonderful dish.

I would not want to debate with such culinary experts and professionals as Gene Gonzales and Claude Tayag, and much less with you, but I have to differ with all of you because our *kare-kare* has little, if anything, to do with Thai, Malaysian or Indonesian curries as at least implied in your column.

Indeed, it may be called Asian, as you correctly do, because it has morphed into a truly native Filipino dish—native because, although its origin is foreign, all its ingredients are available in the country and it has been thoroughly assimilated into our culinary culture—and because it originates from India.

The real origin of *kare-kare* has to do with the short-lived British invasion and occupation of Manila in 1762-1764. Upon occupying the city, the British brought an occupation army from the Indian subcontinent who were obviously Muslim; were they Hindi, *kare-kare* would have never come about because Hindi do not eat beef, which Muslims do and *kare-kare*'s meat base is beef.

Some historians refer to Indian soldiers of this occupation army as "*sepoys*" giving the wrong impression that "*sepoys*" are a distinct Indian tribe. They are not. *Sepoy* was merely the name given to the lowest-ranking Indian soldier, Muslim or Hindi, in the employ of the British Indian army under the East India Company.

It will be recalled the "*sepoys*" rose against the British in the great Sepoy Rebellion, but that's another story that happened a hundred years later.

So, to go back to our theme, under the first Treaty of Paris pertaining to the Philippines, the British left the country and the *sepoys*, who deeply resented their foreign masters, deserted and settled in the Southern Tagalog towns of Taytay and Cainta in what is now Rizal province. They married Filipino women and, to this day, the inhabitants of Cainta retain strong Indian features.

Kaikaari

Naturally, the *sepoys* introduced the locals to their native *kaikaari*, a sauce, gravy or stew of vegetables cooked with many spices and, sometimes, only sometimes, with a sprinkling of grated coconut or coconut milk. The common spices of this mixture included chilies, mustard, tamarind, coriander, turmeric, cloves, ginger, red and black pepper, cinnamon, black and green cardamom, roasted cumin seeds, and some other spices.

Strangely, the leaf of the curry tree is not essential for *kari*. Note two things: In the Indian *kari*, the curry leaf is not a basic item and the short form of *kaikaari* is *kaari* and a shorter, more common form is *kari*.

Generally, in India, *kari* refers to a meal of rice that is primarily eaten with this spicy mixture together with a variety of meat, seafood or vegetables. Therefore, *kari* is not really a "dish" at all but just a sauce, gravy or stew poured over or mixed with rice and the stated victuals.

The confusion regarding this simple issue probably resulted from the British who use the word curry to mean almost any spicy Indian dish. The origin of the word curry itself is suffused with legends. Curry as a word not having to do with food has several meanings, of course, but when related to food, most etymologists agree that it derives from the Tamil *kari*, referring to the spicy mixture discussed above.

To be continued...

For comments or suggestions, text 0917-8399888

Get ready for thanksgiving

THE REGGIE ASPIRAS SCHOOL OF Culinary Arts will conduct the following classes:

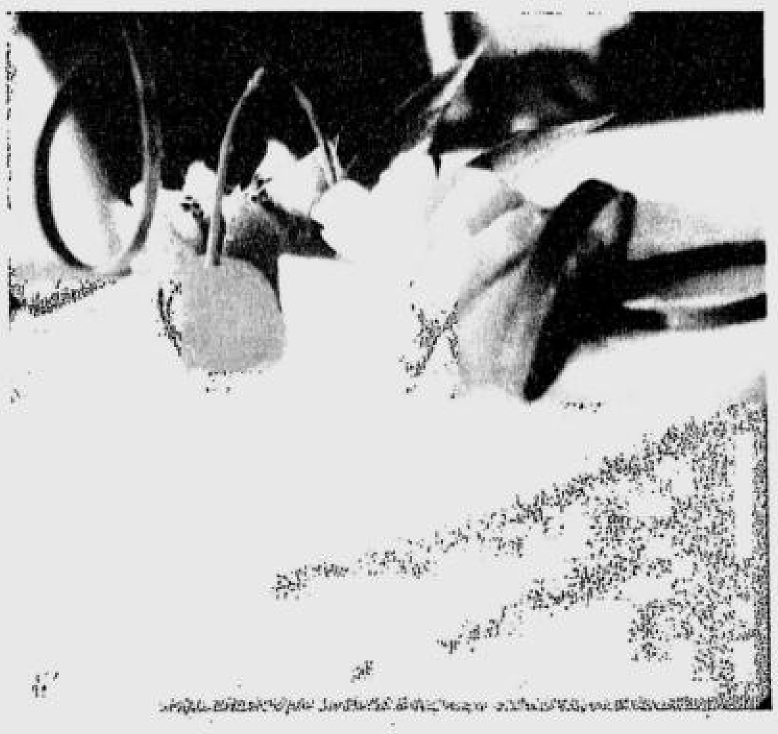
Oct. 7—Thanksgiving 2005 (all new): Wild Mushroom Soup, Apple and Trout Salad, Brined Chestnut Stuffed, Butter Glazed Turkey with Cranberry, Apple and Pear Sauce, side dishes, dessert

Oct. 8—Baking Pinoy Style (all new): Chiffon Cakes with Two Icings Ube and Pandan Butter, Vanilla Canonigo with Mango Banana Sauce, Vanilla Brazo de Mercedes, Yema Roll, Mini Butter Cakes with Pastillas Filling

Oct. 10—Recipes from Master Chefs 2 (all new): Vegetable Flan with Smoked Salmon Salad, Prawn Cappuccino Soup, Deep-fried Roast Beef with Sauces (Wine, Roasted Garlic and Marsala); and Asparagus and Shrimp Risotto, Cold Grand Marnier Soufflé

Oct. 12—My Chinoy Merienda (all new): Siomai with Lobsters and Foie Gras, Duck Asado Siopao with Cherries and Foie Gras, Asado in Lettuce Leaves and Plum Sauce, Chicken Pops with Orange Sauce Chinese Style, Fish Noodle Chinese Style, Almond Lychee Maja Blanca

Call 9289296, 9273008, 6335162, 6474744, 0917-8399888.



MANILA Diamond Hotel's Kohikan introduces Crunch Mango Cream Cake this month. The dessert is made of almond sponge layers, fresh mango cream, mango flambé and imported white chocolate. Yurakuen offers special autumn dishes cooked with Pacific Saury, the fish in season in Japan. Call 5283000.

Decadent desserts

DINING OUT

MAKATI Shangri-La's Circles Event Café offers an array of luscious confections. Begin your sweet adventure with Flourless Chocolate Cake, cheesecake sampler, puffed pastries and various flavors of panna cottas. Dip fruits and marshmallow at the chocolate fountain. Also featured are bread pudding, crème brulée, fruit crepes topped with chocolate chips and creamy sauce, sugar-free ice cream and *halo-halo*. Experience high afternoon tea parties at the Lobby Lounge. Call 8138888.

HYATT Hotel and Casino Manila's Market Café offers a Malaysian buffet until Oct. 9. Fresh tropical fruits, seafood, chilies, curries and coconut milk are featured ingredients. Call 2451234.

ILUSTRADO presents 16 Years of Ilustrado Classics on Oct. 11-26. A special lunch and dinner menu brings together 16 favorites and bestsellers over the past 16 years, from hot and cold appetizers to fish and meat main courses and desserts—all culled from Ilustrado's collection of treasured recipes. Ilustrado is located at 744 Calle Real del Palacio St., Intramuros, Manila. Call 5273674/ 75 or 5272345/ 19.

THE SULO Hotel offers Nigiri Matsuri or Sushi and Sashimi All You Can for P260 until Oct. 21 at Sushi Bar, Monday to Friday, 6-10 p.m. Teppanyaki serves free Wafu Salad for every group of eight or more Monday to Friday, 11 a.m.-2:30 p.m. and 6-10 p.m. Call 9245051 to 71.

INTERCONTINENTAL Manila's Prince Albert Rotisserie offers Variations on Foie Gras until Oct. 22. Choices include Pan-fried Duck Liver on Sautéed Apples and Herb Salad with Raspberry Vinegar Sauce; Chicken Consomme with Truffle Oil; Ravioli of Duck Liver and Mushroom; Roasted Sea Bass; Soufflé of Duck Liver served with Mushroom Risotto; Veal Jus; Whole Duck Liver roasted with Suha Leaves and Candied Suha; and Saffron Pasta with Duck Liver Lardons and Herb-flavored Chanterelles. Call 8159711.

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Channel	2:30PM	3:00PM	3:30PM	4:00PM	4:30PM	5:00PM	5:30PM	6:00PM	6:30PM	7:00PM	7:30PM	8:00PM	8:30PM	9:00PM	9:30PM	10:00PM	10:30PM	11:00PM	11:30PM
NBN		Value Vision		New Life TV Shopping		Teledyaryo	Dyos Ko, Mahal Mo Ba Sila?	Tinig ng Bayan (Live)				Teledyaryo				Tinig ng Bayan (Live)		Bantay OCW With Susan K	
ABS-CBN 2	Kapamilya Cinema				Pasion de Amor	Mr. Bean	Naruto	Amazing Twins	Meteor Garden Season 2	TV Patrol World	Mga Anghel Na Walang Langit	Vietnam Rose	Kampanerang Kuba	Ikaw Ang Lahat Sa Akin	Pinoy Big Brother	Maalaala Mo Kaya			Insider
ABC 5			EZ Shop		Barclays EPL		EPL Goals		Sentro	Sports Program					Big News	Inq TV		ESPN Golf	
GMA 7	Kung Mamahalin Mo Lang Ako	Now and Forever	Hotelier	12 Kingdoms	Slam Dunk	All For Love		24 Oras		Extra Challenge		Darna	Encantadia	Sugo	My Sassy Girl	Magpakailanman			Saksi
RPN 9	TV Shopping		Defenders Of The Earth	Hey Arnold!	Wild Thornberries	Sponge Bob	Global Battle Of The Bands	Entertainment Tonight	The Insider	WWE Smackdown		The Ultimate Fighter		Traffic		Newswatch Now	Video Hit Parade	Kasangga Mo Ang Langit	Police Hour
IBC 13		EZ Shop		EZ Shop		Home Shopping Network	IBC Express Balita	Pangarap Kong Jackpot		Japan Video Topics		ME TV		Demolition Nights		King Of Adventure	IBC News Tonite	Home Shopping Network	
SBN 21		New Life TV Shop						Winner TV Shopping				Oras Ng Himala		Oras ng Katotohanan		Music Video		Sheperds Voice	
Studio 23								Batman Beyond	Pinoy Big Brother	Wazzup Wazzup	Birds Of Prey	Alias		Desperate Housewives		News Central	Oprah		Just Shoot Me
MTV Philippines	MTV Alert	MTV Cribs	That MTV Chart Show		Pimp My Ride	Pop Inc		MTV Hits				MTV Hits	Get Spotted	TRL		Punk'D	Brand New	MTV Hits	VH1 Video Collections
MYX		Rock MYX	My MYX	Mellow MYX	Urban MYX	Take 5	OPM MYX		Star MYX	MYXILOG	Pop MYX	MYX Daily Top Ten		MYX Presents		Urban MYX	My MYX	MYX Backtrax	OPM MYX
CNN		Business International		Larry King Live		World News	World Sport	Business International		World News	World Sport	World News Asia		World News	World Sport	World News Asia		Your World Today	
ESPN												Sportscenter Asia							
Solar Sports		TV Shopping	Fed Cup SF 2005						Swatch Fivb World Tour '05 Final				Sports Desk	Spike TV's NBA Rookies		TV Over Time	NBA Action	Sports Desk	NBA Inside Stuff
Sports Plus				Valero Texas Open Highlights		Celebrity Poker Tournament				Raceworld		NFL 2005						NASCAR EA Sports 500 Talladega	
Cinemax		Woo			House Of Wax			Purgatory			Hercules And The Amazon Women			Witchboard 2			How To Lose A Guy In 10 Days (10:40PM)		
Hallmark Channel	Bewitched	Strong Medicine		HCA: The Fairytaler	Sesame Street		Mad About You	Bewitched	The Nanny	Mysterious Way		Strong Medicine		Riding The Bus With My Sister			Judging Amy (10:35PM)		Mysterious Way
Disney Channel	Mr. Bean: The Animated Series	Totally Spies	Art Attack/Unitalkative Bunny	Sabrina, The Animated Series	Mickey Mouse and Friends	Martin Mystery	Totally Spies	Kim Possible	Mr. Bean: The Animated Series	That's So Raven	Wonderful World Of Disney			Lizzie Mcguire		Mickey Mouse and Friends	Chip N Dale's Rescue Rangers	Wonderful World Of Disney	
Discovery Channel		Hour Asia		Hour China		Wild Discovery		Zero Hour		Extreme Machines		IBM Innovation Hour		Wild Science		The Baby Human 2		Power Zone	
National Geographic		Megastructures		Marine Machines		Mission Mars		Dogs With Jobs	Toyota World Of Wildlife	Wow!		About Asia		Nat'l Geographic Specials		Megastructures		Marine Machines	
Cartoon Network	Yogi Bear Show	The All New Popeye Show		Tom & Jerry Show	Baby Looney Tunes	What's New Scooby Doo?	Johnny Bravo	Xiaolin Showdown	Teen Titans	SD Gundam Force	Machine Robo-Rescue	The Looney Tunes Show		Courage The Cowardly Dog	What's New Scooby Doo?	Mike, Lu & Og	Time Squad	Xiaolin Showdown	Teen Titans
Nickelodeon	Blues Clues/ What Planet Are You From	Rugrats	Hey Arnold!	My Life As A Teenage Robot/ Right On Top	The Adventures Of Jimmy Neutron	SpongeBob SquarePants	The Fairly Odd Parents	All That	Naturally Sadie	Sabrina, The Teenage Witch	Drake & Josh	Cow At The Moo-vies	All Grown Up	As Told By Ginger	Rocket Power	Chalkzone	The Wild Thornberrys	The Angry Beavers	Are You Afraid of the Dark?
Lifestyle Network	Secret Gardens	The Fix	Mission Organization	Carol Duvall	Molto Mario	Hot Off The Grill	Good Eats	Extreme Cuisine	Unwrapped	Tyler's Ultimate	E! News Weekend		Good Finds	Life & Style		E! True Hollywood Story		Road & Track	Back To Basics
AXN		CSI: Miami (Season 3)		CSI		The Amazing Race Family Edition		Alias (Season III)		The Contender		Gamemax	Hollywood's Greatest Stunts	24		24		The Shield	
JackTV	Dr. Katz	Just For Laughs (Gags)	Beat The Geeks	Little Nicky				Cinematech	Family Guy	Mad TV		Reno 911	Crank Yankers	South Park	The Daily Show With Jon Stewart	Hip Hop Nation	Ride With Funk Master Flex	WWE Velocity	
ETC		GBB	Knock First	1 Hr Edited Version Of Today Show		Eliminidate	Change of Heart	Seinfeld	Ambush Makeover	Good Morning Miami	Commited	American Dreams		Queer Eye For The Straight Guy		Entertainment Tonight	The Insider	The Tonight Show With Jay Leno	
HBO			Dr Jekyll And Mr. Hyde (3.45 PM)				Let's Get Harry			Congo (7:15PM)				Beyond Borders				For Richer Or Poorer (11:05PM)	
Star Movies			The Company (3.45 PM)				Torn Apart (6.40PM)			K-9 (7:15PM)				Miracle				Ozzie (11:15PM)	
Cinema One		Fiesta Extravaganza				Hinugot Sa Langit				All My Life				Halik Ng Sirena				Batas Ng Lansangan	
EWTN	St. Faustina: Divine Mercy In Our Souls	Angelus (3.15PM)	Council Of Faith	Faith Factory D	Image Of God	Rosary With Mother Angelica	EWTN Gallery	Gospel Of Life In Health Care	Lord, Have Mercy	EWTN Live With Father Mitch Pacwa		Daily Mass Live		Angelus (9.15 PM)	Suffering Of The God	Angels Of God	Your Vocation: God's Call In Your Life	The Journey Home	

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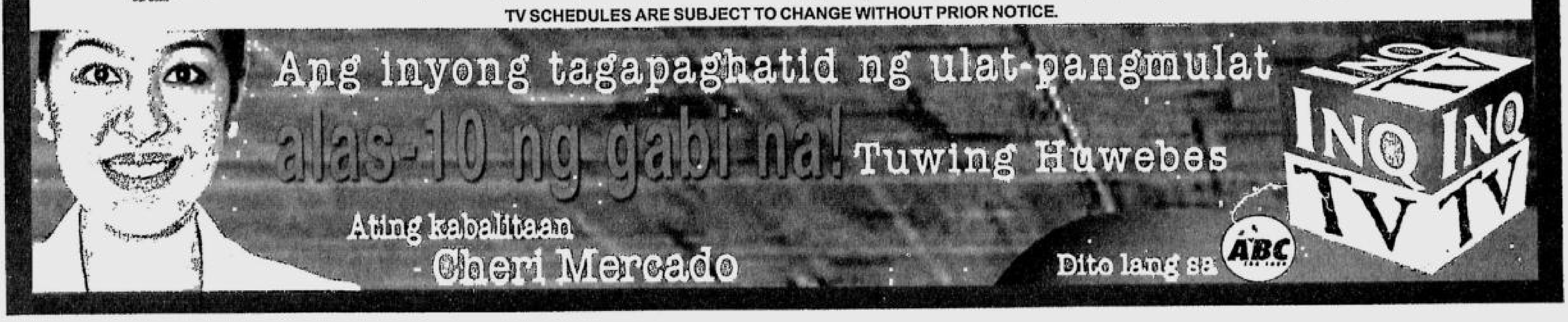

Ang inyong tagapaghatid ng ulat-pangmulat
alas-10 ng gabi na! Tuwing Huwebes
Ating kabalitaan
Cheri Mercado
Dito lang sa ABC
INQ TV

PDI FAMILY RECIPE CONTEST

What's cooking in Ate Guy's hometown

Libas is a spicy 'gata' dish that looks like its more popular cousin, laing, but tastes quite different

By Victor Panga

OIDO. THAT'S WHAT I CALL MY cooking method, but instead of using my ears, I used my eyes and learned to cook this dish by watching my father, Ed Panga. I had no formal culinary training.

My father learned the recipe from my *lolo*, a public school teacher in Iriga, Camarines Sur, a quiet city in southern Bicol famous for being Ate Guy's (Nora Aunor) hometown. "Guy" is Iriga's equivalent of the Tagalogs' "*pare*" or the Cebuanos' "*bai*."

Bicol dishes are known for *gata* and *sili*. But this dish is specifically Rinconada, that part of Bicol consisting of Iriga and its neighboring municipalities.

Libas is a spicy *gata* dish that looks like its more popular cousin, *laing*. But though they look almost the same, their tastes are quite different.

Libas has this strong sour taste not found in *laing*. This is probably because the sour *libas* leaves are used, instead of *gabi*. Also, our recipe, unlike *laing*, has native chicken as one of the ingredients.

We usually use only half of the chicken for the dish. The other half is fried, the perfect match for the vegetable dish.

This dish is special to us for it is symbolic of our Bicol-Rinconada heritage. It is also a reminder of how easy and laid-back provincial life can be.

As far as I can remember, my *lolo* never bought any of the ingredients for this dish. All of them were found in his backyard *umá* (farm).

The neighbors were also more than willing to give him what he needed, even the chicken, if he was willing to chase and catch it himself.

I am a third generation member of our family and these days, nothing is free anymore, not even the *libas* that used to grow in *lolo*'s backyard. But I still cook this dish when I get the chance—for Sunday lunches, fiestas, family reunions.

In those special gatherings, even in Manila, we still call each other "guy." But nothing can be a more distinctive (and delectable) reminder of our heritage than a hot serving of this dish.

LIBAS

Libas

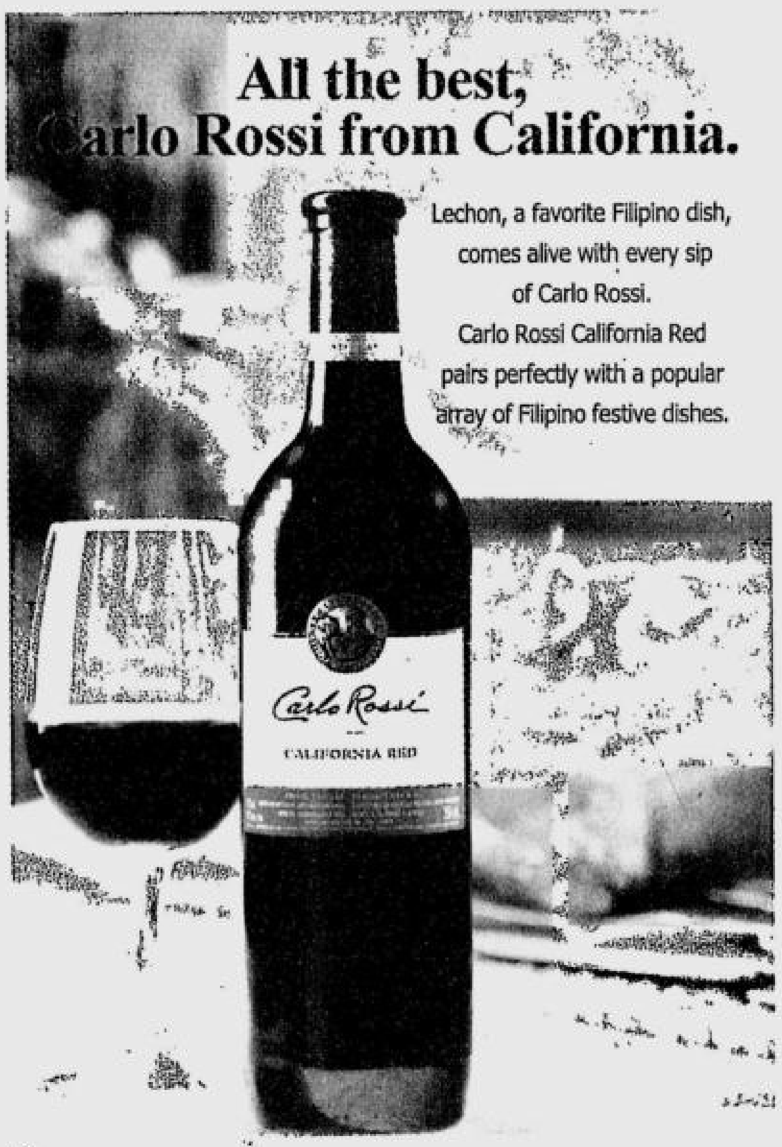
Libas leaves (sliced thinly)
½ native chicken cut into serving pieces
lemon grass
4 tbsp *alamang*
3 cloves of garlic (minced)
1 onion (sliced)
1 tsp black pepper
sili (long variety and sliced diagonally)
1 k grated coconut
1 c water

Extract the pure coconut milk from the 1 kilo grated coconut. Set aside. Add water to the grated coconut and do another extraction of coconut milk.

In a wok or a frying pan, put the second extraction of coconut milk. Allow to simmer a bit before adding the garlic, onion and black pepper.

Add the chicken and lemon grass, then the *sili*.

Cover the pan and continue cooking until the chicken is tender. Then add the *libas* leaves. Add the pure coconut milk and continue cooking until the coconut milk thickens. Serve hot.



All the best, Carlo Rossi from California.

Lechon, a favorite Filipino dish, comes alive with every sip of Carlo Rossi. Carlo Rossi California Red pairs perfectly with a popular array of Filipino festive dishes.

Gunning for world's longest buffet

ON OCT. 22, EASTWOOD CITY and over 30 restaurants will come together to take a shot at a Guinness world record by coming up with the world's longest buffet at 350 meters. Although the last documented effort was a whopping 286 m achieved in France, an official record has yet to be set.

"Nobody has set the record for this. Guinness [World Records] has to tell us how long the buffet has to be," said Kevin Tan, a representative for Eastwood, in a media briefing.

Participating establishments will have varied themes so there will be no repetition of dishes in the long queue of tables, which is expected to be laid with 400 dishes. For P350, one can get full access to nearly a quarter-mile of tables snaking through the Mediterranean-inspired spaces of Eastwood. And with establishments from Café Adriatico and Pasto to Teriyaki Boy and Superbowl of China, it'd be like jet-setting while dining al fresco amid Eastwood's characteristic downtown Miami vibe.

In line with Quezon City's 'Qulinary' Food Festival, the longest buffet will coincide with this year's Oktoberfest. Limited slots are available so get your tickets now at the ERA office, 3/F Cybermall, Eastwood, before the rest of the city gets ahead in line. Call 6876770 to 74.

Win SM Supermarket gift checks

THE FAMILY RECIPES that you're turning into favorite dishes at reunions may be exactly what we want. We are looking for recipes that use traditional Filipino techniques and ingredients. Send us your recipes and, if chosen, you can win P2,000 worth of SM Supermarket gift checks, a gift from Imarflex or a class of choice at the Reggie Aspiras School of Culinary Arts.

Tell us who in your family first cooked and served the recipe; how many generations have cooked it; when it is usually cooked and served. Include a photo and your name, address, daytime telephone number and e-mail address, if any.

Entries should be mailed or delivered to PDI Family Recipe Contest, c/o Lifestyle, Philippine Daily Inquirer, 1098 Chino Roces Ave., Makati City 1263. Or e-mail to **recipes@inquirer.com.ph.** For contest details, e-mail lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph. Winners may claim their prizes from the PDI marketing office.

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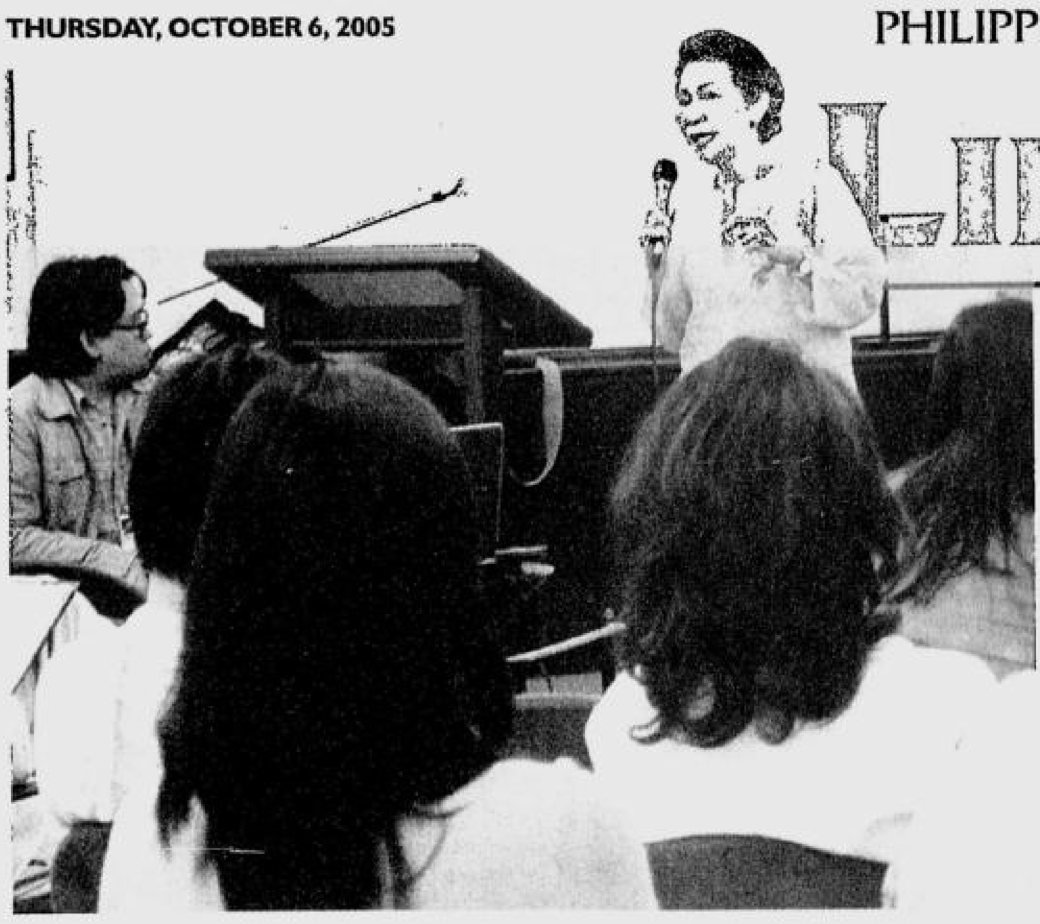
Who will save our 'sinigang' and other vanishing food?



NUTRITIONIST Sanirose Orbeta discusses food which make us vanish.

The recent food symposium, named after the late Doreen Gamboa Fernandez, was a success, judging from the crowd and the quality of papers presented

By Michaela Fenix
Contributor

THE ROOM WAS FILLED with foodies. These are people who not only eat food but also read, write and are passionate about food. They love to discuss the process food undergoes, which can start from the planting to the cooking and then the eating. They are aware of ingredients and where those come from. Most of all, they connect food not only to agriculture but also to culture, to history, to the landscape.

Not surprisingly, the foodies were there for the Doreen G. Fernandez Food Symposium 2005, the first ever in the country, held at the Filipinas Heritage Library in Makati on Aug. 27. There were papers read that day, some of them part of the competition with the theme "Vanishing Food."

It was Pia Lim Castillo who, as a veteran of the Oxford Symposium on Food and Cookery, used her experience to guide the members in launching this first symposium. But the committee wanted a less academic approach and, on the whole, all the presentations were much more entertaining.

This first symposium was named for Doreen Gamboa Fernandez, who had delivered several papers at Oxford and was a good friend of the organizer, Alan Davidson. Fernandez also wrote some entries on Filipino ingredients for the Oxford Companion to Food that was edited by Davidson.

Speakers

Ambeth Ocampo, director of the National Historical Institute and chair of the National Commission on Culture and Arts, talked about how Fernandez sometimes brought him both to the eating and the research on food. He saw how she interviewed specialty makers and how she brought those specialties to the classroom in Ateneo for taste testing and assessment. He then continued with his subject, "Food Should Not be History," which he said was his way of pointing out research areas that need to be looked into, things he would have liked to do himself except that he's "too occupied with cutting ribbons."

Ocampo was one of four presenters who were not part of the competition. The others were Sanirose Orbeta, Dez Bautista and Pat Gallardo.

When Orbeta said her topic was about "food which make you vanish," being the nutritionist that she is, we all took that to mean dieting. But from the bad eating habits that she enumerated, the topic turned out to be food that can kill you. She touched on what was eaten at different decades and how proper nutrition had declined through those years. That was confirmed by one of the attendees who said his study on Batanes children showed how their *merienda* had shifted from the healthier root crops to junk food such as cheese curls and in just a short span of time.

The "Disappearance of Decadent Dining" was Dez Bautista's topic. An art director and consummate Bulacan arts and culture promoter, he was nostalgic for the days when table art such as artistic *pastillas* wrappers were still cut, opulent dish presentations were served, and the ornate decorations of vines and flowers descended from the lamp down to the sides of the table.

"Saving the Barako" was the topic of Pat Gallardo. Her talk was augmented by a documentary on Figaro's role in the program to save this Filipino coffee variety but was much too public relations-driven, I thought.

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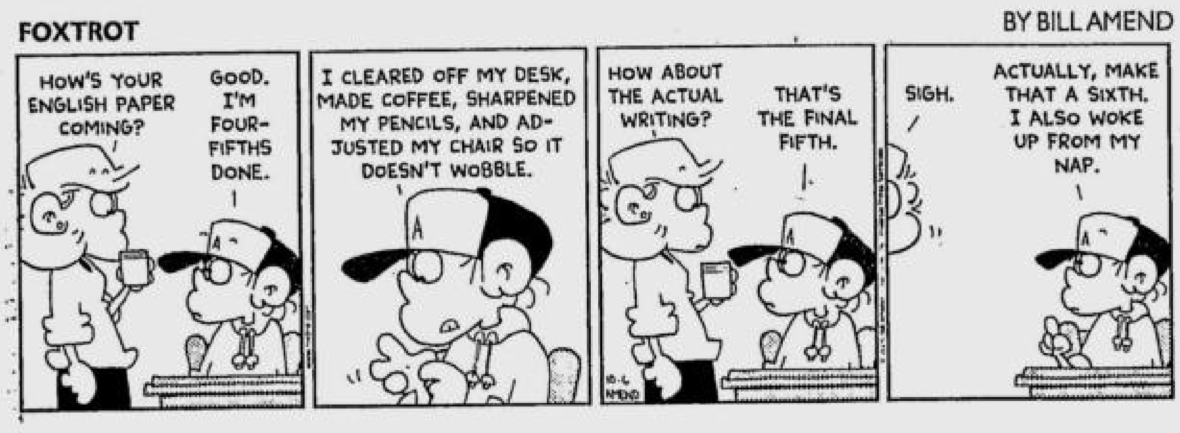
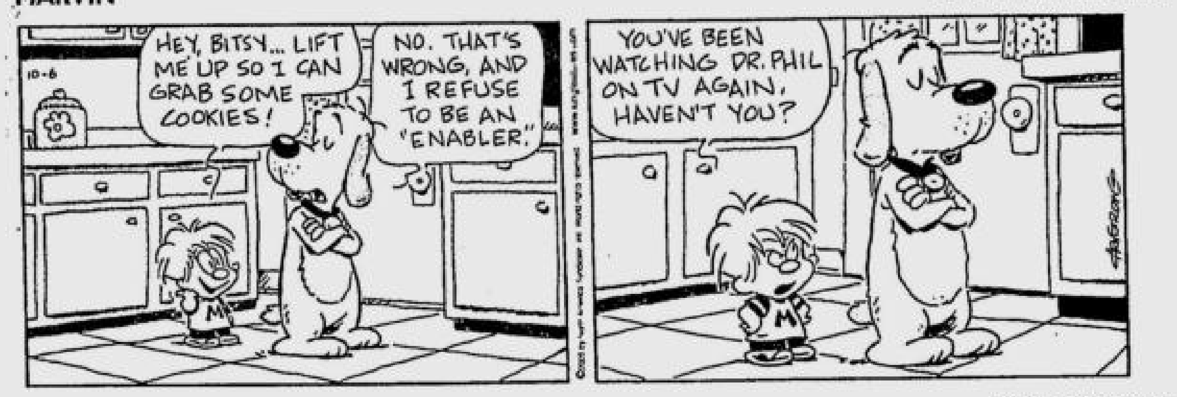
FOXTROT

BY BILL AMEND


HOW'S YOUR ENGLISH PAPER COMING?
GOOD. I'M FOUR-FIFTHS DONE.
I CLEARED OFF MY DESK, MADE COFFEE, SHARPENED MY PENCILS, AND ADJUSTED MY CHAIR SO IT DOESN'T WOBBLE.
HOW ABOUT THE ACTUAL WRITING?
THAT'S THE FINAL FIFTH.
SIGH.
ACTUALLY, MAKE THAT A SIXTH. I ALSO WOKE UP FROM MY NAP.
10-6 AMEND

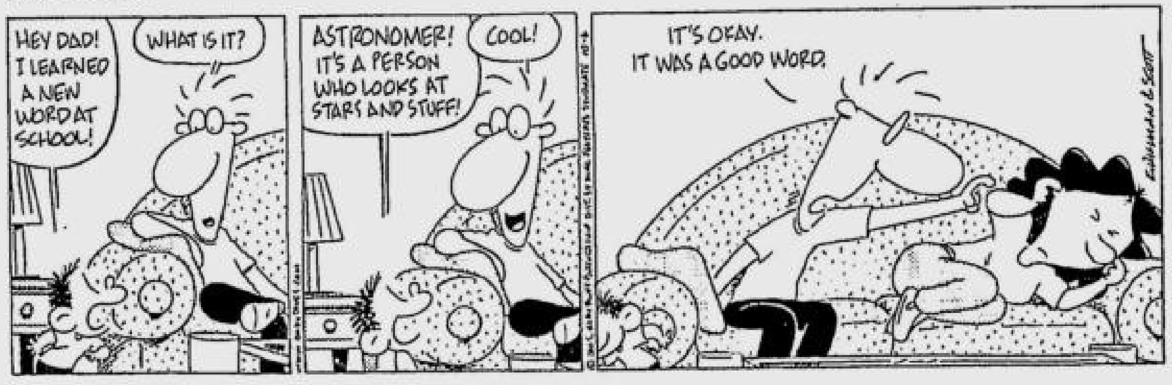
MARVIN

BY TOM ARMSTRONG


10-6
HEY, BITSY... LIFT ME UP SO I CAN GRAB SOME COOKIES!
NO. THAT'S WRONG, AND I REFUSE TO BE AN "ENABLER."
YOU'VE BEEN WATCHING DR. PHIL ON TV AGAIN, HAVEN'T YOU?
ARMSTRONG

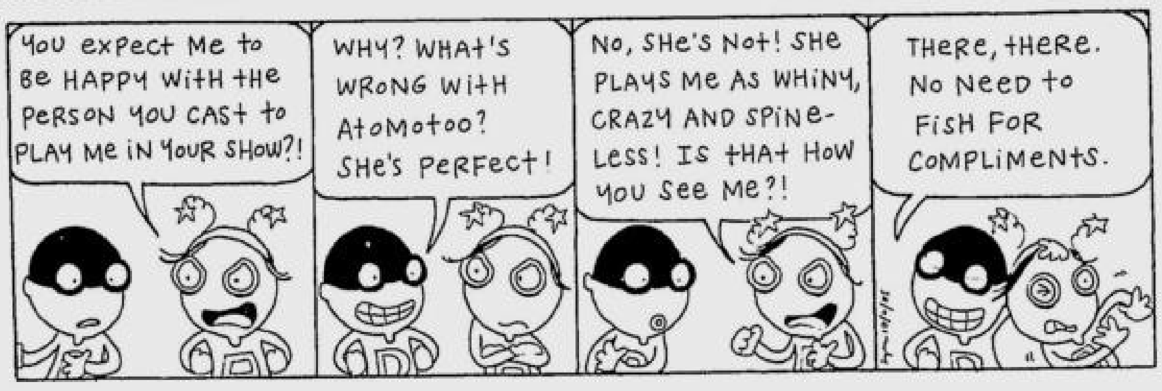
BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


HEY DAD! I LEARNED A NEW WORD AT SCHOOL!
WHAT IS IT?
ASTRONOMER! IT'S A PERSON WHO LOOKS AT STARS AND STUFF!
COOL!
IT'S OKAY. IT WAS A GOOD WORD.
KIRKMAN & SCOTT

ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


You expect Me to be HAPPY with the Person you cast to PLAY Me in your SHOW?!
WHY? WHAT'S WRONG with AtoMotoo? SHe's Perfect!
No, SHe's Not! SHe PLAYS Me AS WHINY, CRAZY AND SPINE-Less! Is that How you See Me?!
There, there. No Need to Fish For COMPLiMents.

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: Your sense of adventure lets you play a long shot. Plus, you love to learn new things. Your sense of joie de vivre makes you embrace romance fully as well. You're a marvelous host. People are attracted to your positive optimism. Major changes can take place in the year ahead. (Perhaps as significant as those around 1997.)

Birthdate of: Amy Jo Johnson, actress; Elisabeth Shue, actress; Thor Heyerdahl, explorer/author.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): You're getting excited about travel plans. Some of you are equally excited about matters connected with higher education, post-secondary training, publishing and the media. (Great!)

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): Your closest relationships can become tender and sweet now. Not only that, but in the next six weeks, others will give you gifts, favors and opportunities. Yo!

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): Your relations with partners and close friends will greatly improve in the immediate future. The month ahead is an excellent time to mend broken fences.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): Your health can definitely improve in the next six to eight weeks. The next few weeks are also an excellent time to discuss agreements with co-workers, because you're willing to resolve difficulties.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): Once every two years (would I kid you?), Mars sits at the top of your chart for about seven weeks. But this year, it's been there since late July, and it's going to stay until next February. You're ambitious!

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): This is an excellent time to make travel plans. Ditto for going back to school. Your urge to broaden your horizons is totally in sync with the stars. Learn something new!

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): The month ahead is an excellent time to talk to siblings and relatives. It's also good time to enter into contracts and negotiate with others.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): The Moon is in your sign today. This can bring you an extra little bit of good luck. Go after anything you want a "yes" answer to.

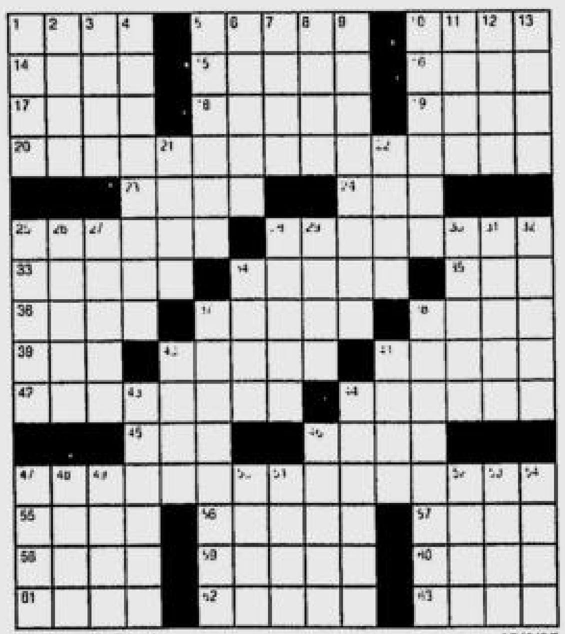
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): Tomorrow, Venus moves into your sign, where it will stay until Nov. 5. This makes you more attractive to others. This time frame is also an excellent time to buy clothes and wardrobe items.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): Discussions with female friends go well today. Nevertheless, expect an increasing desire for solitude in the month ahead.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): Your ability to schmooze and deal with friends and groups will improve greatly in the next six weeks. Take advantage of this; accept all invitations.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): The next six weeks offer you opportunities to impress your boss and other authority figures in your life. Without doing anything extra, people are with you now! (Milk this for all it's worth.)

DAILY CROSSWORD



By Alan P. Olschwang
Huntington Beach, CA
10/6/05

ACROSS
1 Carp cousin
5 Acknowledge
10 Fashion of the moment
14 Fling
15 Bast fiber plant
16 Mild expletive
17 Pulitzer winner of 1958
18 Minneapolis suburb
19 __ slaw
20 Start of Mason Cooley quote
23 Helmut's three
24 Taro dish
25 Tough trial
28 Grocer's concern
33 Unit of wisdom?
34 Perm milieu
35 Bikini part
36 Charged particles
37 Part 2 of quote
38 Saline drop
39 Hoops event
40 Dead, as a dragon
41 Hang in loose folds
42 Voters
44 Put on a first coat
45 Lacking experience
46 Close securely
47 End of quote
55 Asta's mistress
56 City on the Seine
57 Invention origination
58 Average grades
59 Ecole student
60 Auto pioneer
61 On the less windy side
62 Medicated
63 Brooding place

DOWN
1 Plug of tobacco
2 Mr. Hefner
3 1934 Nobel-winner in chemistry
4 Bar gadgets
5 Fairy-tale girl
6 Wheel spokes
7 Novelist Kingsley
8 1492 ship
9 Recipe measure
10 Shrink back
11 Eager
12 Festival
13 Idyllic place
21 Preacher Roberts
22 Butcher's cut
25 Think out loud
26 Lubricate again
27 "Divine Comedy" poet
28 Rani's wraps
29 Think ahead
30 At right angles to the ship's keel
31 Jelly choice
32 Like some seals
34 Fly high
37 Came into bloom
38 Immense quantity
40 Constellation component
41 Dull situation
43 Fold
44 Authored
46 Sifting utensil
47 Andes people
48 Coward of note
49 Shade provider
50 Flight school final
51 Cal. abbr.
52 Like a couch potato
53 G-men
54 Bridge position

Wednesday's Puzzle Solved

E	R	G	S	■	S	P	A	D	E	■	C	A	S	T
N	E	E	D	■	I	O	N	I	A	■	A	L	T	E
A	T	R	A	■	G	R	A	S	S	■	N	C	A	A
C	O	O	K	I	N	G	T	H	E	B	O	O	K	S
T	O	N	■	D	E	Y	■	■	■	L	E	V	E	E
E	L	I	C	I	T	■	B	R	I	E	■	E	D	D
D	E	M	O	■	■	R	O	A	M	E	R	■	■	■
■	D	O	U	B	L	E	D	I	P	P	I	N	G	■
■	■	■	P	L	A	N	E	D	■	■	T	A	A	L
A	S	S	■	I	D	E	S	■	B	E	A	G	L	E
S	T	E	E	N	■	■	■	E	Y	E	■	A	L	S
P	A	D	D	I	N	G	E	X	P	E	N	S	E	S
I	R	A	S	■	L	E	L	I	A	■	A	A	R	E
R	E	T	E	■	H	A	I	T	I	■	S	K	I	N
E	D	E	L	■	B	R	A	S	H	■	T	I	A	S

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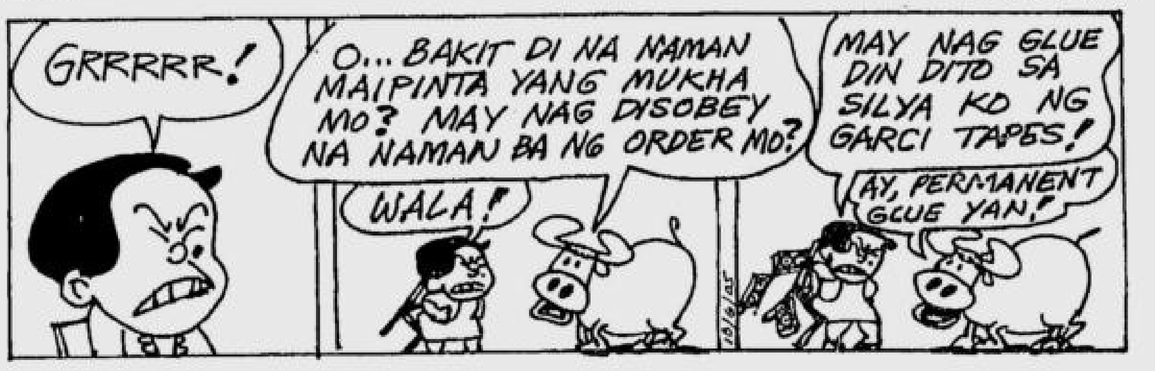
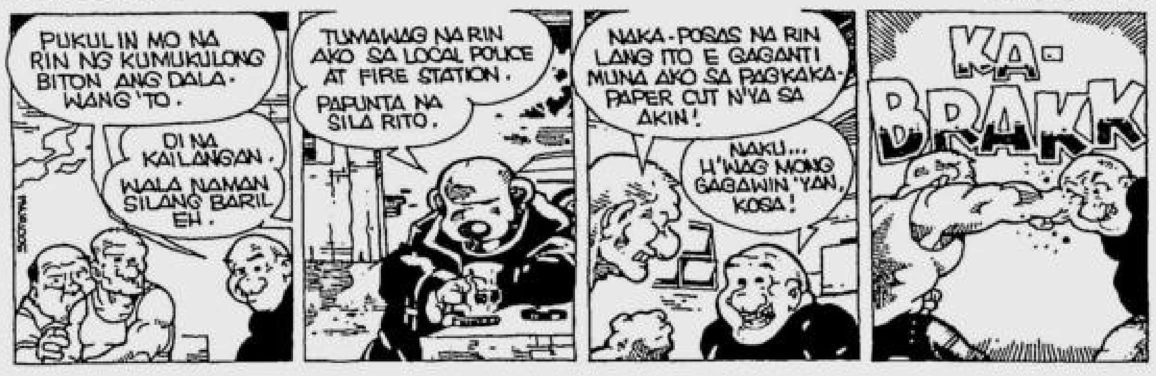
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


GRRRRR!
O... BAKIT DI NA NAMAN MAIPINTA YANG MUKHA MO? MAY NAG DISOBEY NA NAMAN BA NG ORDER MO?
WALA!
MAY NAG GLUE DIN DITO SA SILYA KO NG GARCI TAPES!
AY, PERMANENT GLUE YAN!
10/6/05

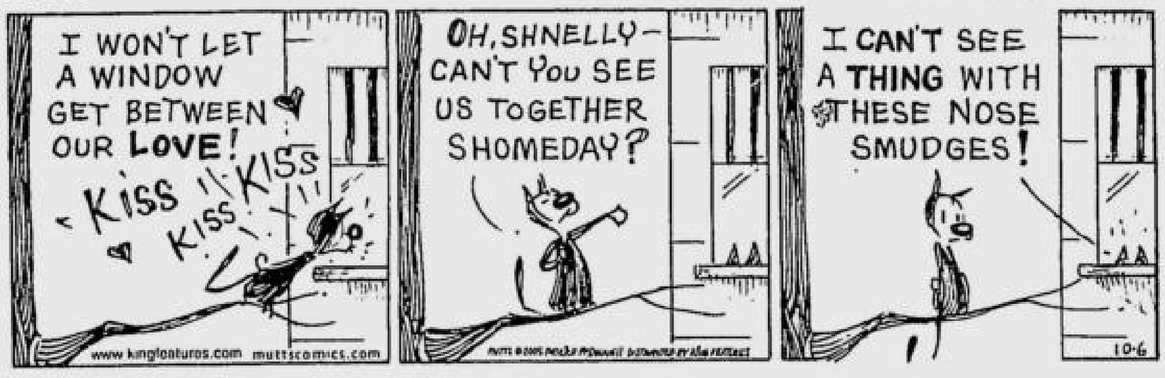
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


PUKULIN MO NA RIN NG KUMUKULONG BITON ANG DALAWANG 'TO.
DI NA KAILANGAN. WALA NAMAN SILANG BARIL EH.
TUMAWAG NA RIN AKO SA LOCAL POLICE AT FIRE STATION.
PAPUNTA NA SILA RITO.
NAKA-POSAS NA RIN LANG ITO E GAGANTI MUNA AKO SA PAGKAKA-PAPER CUT N'YA SA AKIN!
NAKU... H'WAG MONG GAGAWIN 'YAN, KOSA!
KA-BRAKK

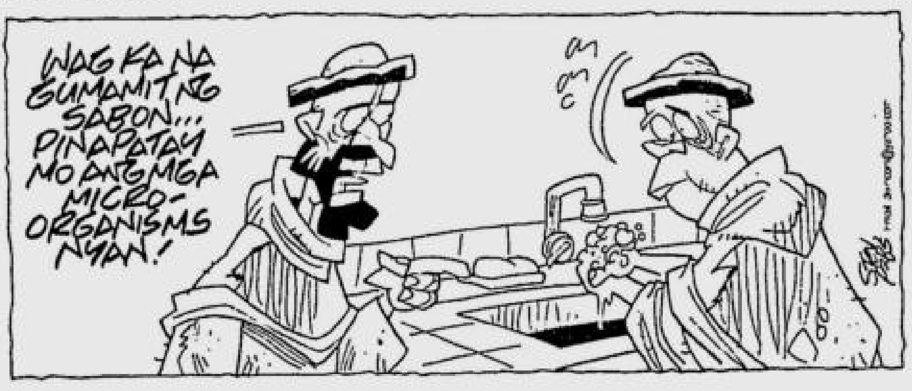
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


I WON'T LET A WINDOW GET BETWEEN OUR LOVE!
KISS KISS KISS
OH, SHNELLY— CAN'T YOU SEE US TOGETHER SHOMEDAY?
I CAN'T SEE A THING WITH THESE NOSE SMUDGES!
www.kingfeatures.com muttscomics.com
10-6

DIVINE COMEDY

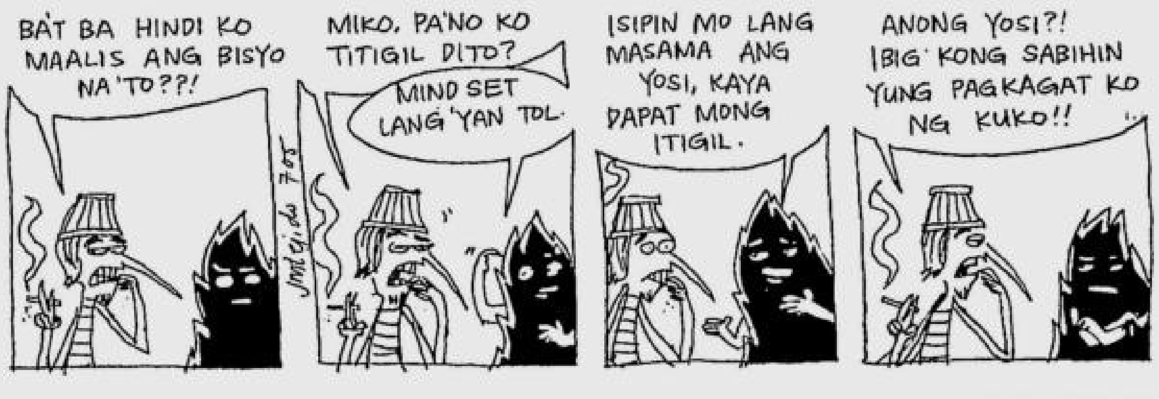
BY STEVEN PABALINAS


WAG KA NA GUMAMIT NG SABON... PINAPATAY MO ANG MGA MICRO-ORGANISMS NYAN!

FRANCIS CARED FOR "ALL" ANIMALS

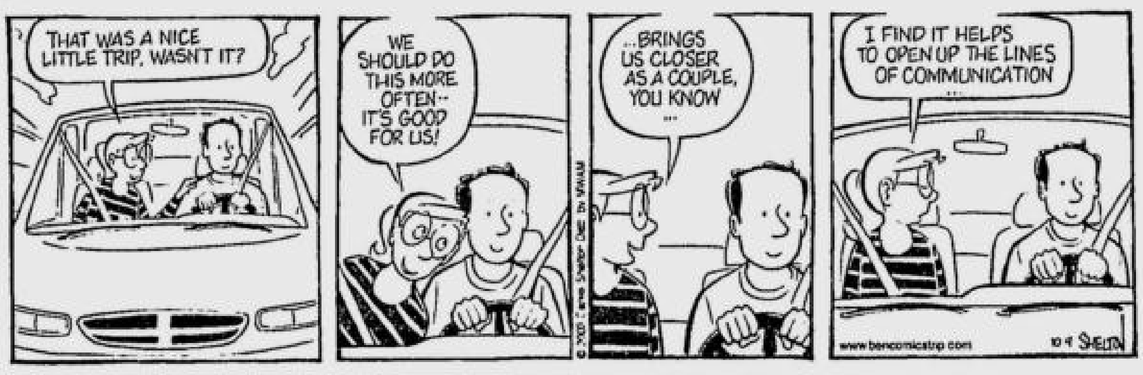
MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


BAT BA HINDI KO MAALIS ANG BISYO NA 'TO??!
MIKO, PA'NO KO TITIGIL DITO?
MIND SET LANG 'YAN TOL.
ISIPIN MO LANG MASAMA ANG YOSI, KAYA DAPAT MONG ITIGIL.
ANONG YOSI?! IBIG KONG SABIHIN YUNG PAGKAGAT KO NG KUKO!!

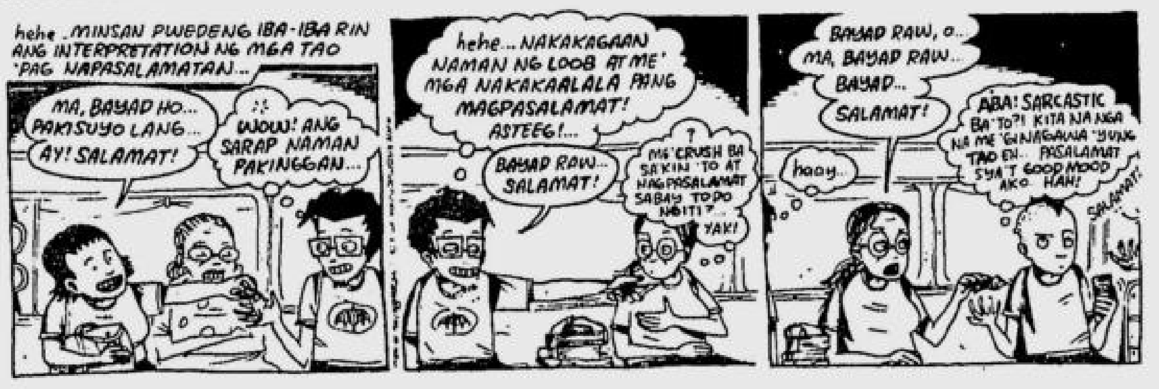
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


THAT WAS A NICE LITTLE TRIP, WASN'T IT?
WE SHOULD DO THIS MORE OFTEN-- IT'S GOOD FOR US!
...BRINGS US CLOSER AS A COUPLE, YOU KNOW
I FIND IT HELPS TO OPEN UP THE LINES OF COMMUNICATION
www.bencomicstrip.com
SHELTON

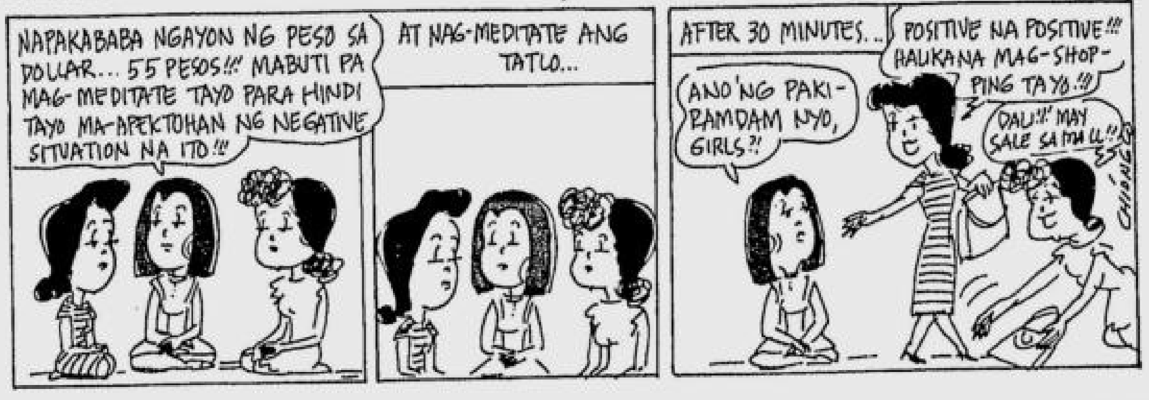
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


hehe .MINSAN PWEDENG IBA-IBA RIN ANG INTERPRETATION NG MGA TAO 'PAG NAPASALAMATAN...
MA, BAYAD HO... PAKISUYO LANG...
AY! SALAMAT!
WOW! ANG SARAP NAMAN PAKINGGAN...
hehe... NAKAKAGAAN NAMAN NG LOOB AT ME' MGA NAKAKAALALA PANG MAGPASALAMAT! ASTEEG!...
BAYAD RAW... SALAMAT!
?
ME' CRUSH BA SA'KIN 'TO AT NAGPASALAMAT SABAY TODO NGITI?... YAK!
BAYAD RAW, O... MA, BAYAD RAW... BAYAD...
SALAMAT!
haay..
ABA! SARCASTIC BA 'TO?! KITA NA NGA NA ME' GINAGAWA 'YUNG TAO EH.. PASALAMAT SYA'T GOOD MOOD AKO. HAH!
SALAMAT!

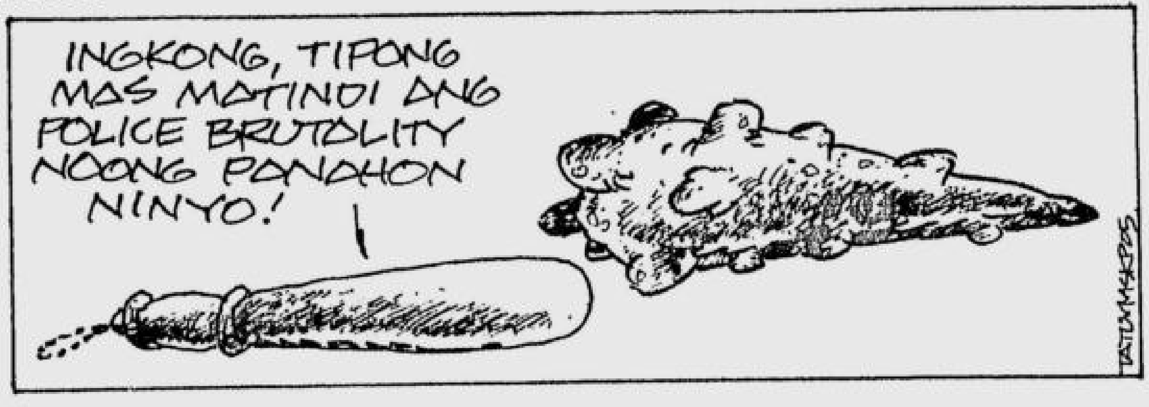
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


NAPAKABABA NGAYON NG PESO SA DOLLAR... 55 PESOS!!! MABUTI PA MAG-MEDITATE TAYO PARA HINDI TAYO MA-APEKTOHAN NG NEGATIVE SITUATION NA ITO!!!
AT NAG-MEDITATE ANG TATLO...
AFTER 30 MINUTES...
ANO'NG PAKI-RAMDAM NYO, GIRLS?!
POSITIVE NA POSITIVE!!! HALIKA NA MAG-SHOPPING TAYO!!!
DALI!!! MAY SALE SA MALL!!!
CHIONG

TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


INGKONG, TIPONG MAS MATINDI ANG POLICE BRUTALITY NOONG PANAHON NINYO!
TATUM MAKROS

IN BETWEEN talks, there was coffee, vinegar and *tuba* tastings.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE FILIPINAS HERITAGE LIBRARY

TOP three winners: Bel Castro, Analyn Ikin V. Salvador and Rhoda S. Lantin, first, second and third, respectively (center), with judges and organizers (from left) Chita Rosales, Neni Sta. Romana Cruz, Ambeth Ocampo, Maritoni Ortigas, Michaela Fenix and Pia Lim Castillo

Who will save our 'sinigang' and other . . .

From page D1

It wasn't all talk about food because some tasting was also done. Coffee was passed around and a vinegar and tuba tasting happened during the midday break.

Papers

There were six competition entries. Judges seated at the back graded their papers for both content and presentation. They were authors Neni Sta. Romana Cruz and Felice Sta. Maria, Maritoni Ortigas of the Filipinas Heritage Library and myself.

Top prize winner of P10,000 was Bel Castro whose title, Master of Arts in Gastronomy from the University of Adelaide, was already intimidating. She wanted to know "Who Will Save our Sinigang?" and started her talk with the question who of us had made *sinigang* from scratch that week. Because of the many instant *sinigang* mixtures, she asked if "convenience has taken supreme precedence over genuineness and tradition?" She also hoped that the group or agency that will preserve our culinary tradition could be identified, but first what was "traditional," "authentic" and "Filipino" had to be defined. Castro also specified in her footnote that her paper was an expanded version of one she had presented at the 14th Symposium on Australian Gastronomy.

Second prize winner Analyn Ikin V. Salvador delivered a paper on "Bark from the Pan: Decoding the Spectacle of Dog-meat Eating in the 1904 St. Louis Fair and in the Cordillera." Even intense foodies who had dogs as pets could be seen squirming at the photographs of dogs about to be slaughtered in the Baguio market, a practice that is supposed to be illegal today.

Salvador reported how the Igorots at the fair were made to do their ritual of dog-meat eating for sheer entertainment and because it made a big profit for the event. She said it stereotyped the Filipino natives as dog eaters and gave Americans a good reason to "rule over an inferior" people. Salvador's interviews with descendants of those who performed at the fair included what happened to them later and how much they were paid at the time.

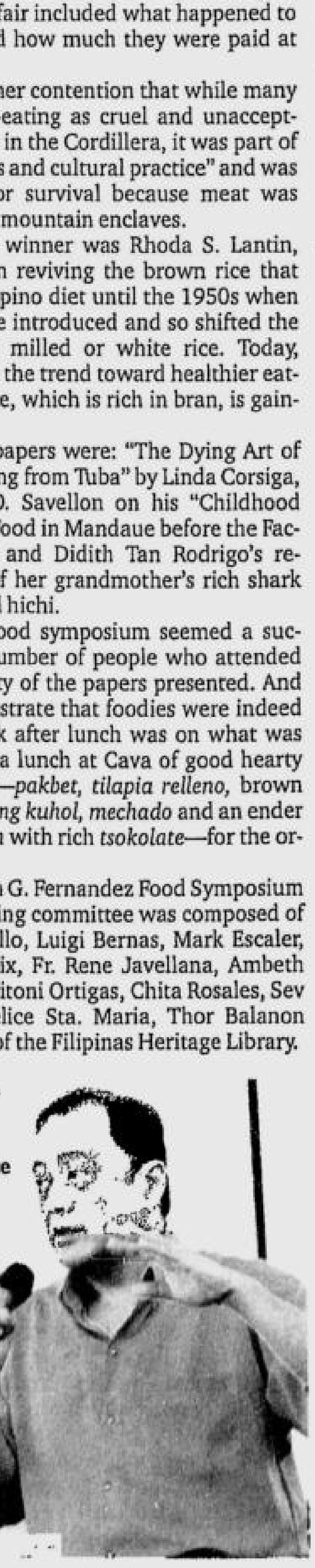
It was also her contention that while many regarded dog-eating as cruel and unacceptable, for those in the Cordillera, it was part of their "religious and cultural practice" and was engaged in for survival because meat was scarce in their mountain enclaves.

Third-prize winner was Rhoda S. Lantin, who talked on reviving the brown rice that was in the Filipino diet until the 1950s when rice mills were introduced and so shifted the preference to milled or white rice. Today, however, with the trend toward healthier eating, brown rice, which is rich in bran, is gaining ground.

The other papers were: "The Dying Art of Vinegar-Making from Tuba" by Linda Corsiga, Dr. Romola O. Savellon on his "Childhood Memories of Food in Mandaue before the Factories Came" and Didith Tan Rodrigo's remembrance of her grandmother's rich shark fin stew called hichi.

This first food symposium seemed a success by the number of people who attended and the quality of the papers presented. And just to demonstrate that foodies were indeed there, the talk after lunch was on what was eaten. It was a lunch at Cava of good hearty Filipino food—*pakbet, tilapia relleno,* brown rice, *guinataang kuhol, mechado* and an ender of fried *suman* with rich *tsokolate*—for the organizers.

The Doreen G. Fernandez Food Symposium 2005 organizing committee was composed of Pia Lim Castillo, Luigi Bernas, Mark Escaler, Michaela Fenix, Fr. Rene Javellana, Ambeth Ocampo, Maritoni Ortigas, Chita Rosales, Sev Sarmenta, Felice Sta. Maria, Thor Balanon and the staff of the Filipinas Heritage Library.



DEZ Bautista expounds on the disappearance of decadent dining.

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Birth Date: M D Y
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Zip Code: ______
Tel. No.: ______
E-mail Address: ______
Name of Respondent: ______ First Name M.I. Last Name
Relation to User: ☐ Relative ☐ Professional Caregiver

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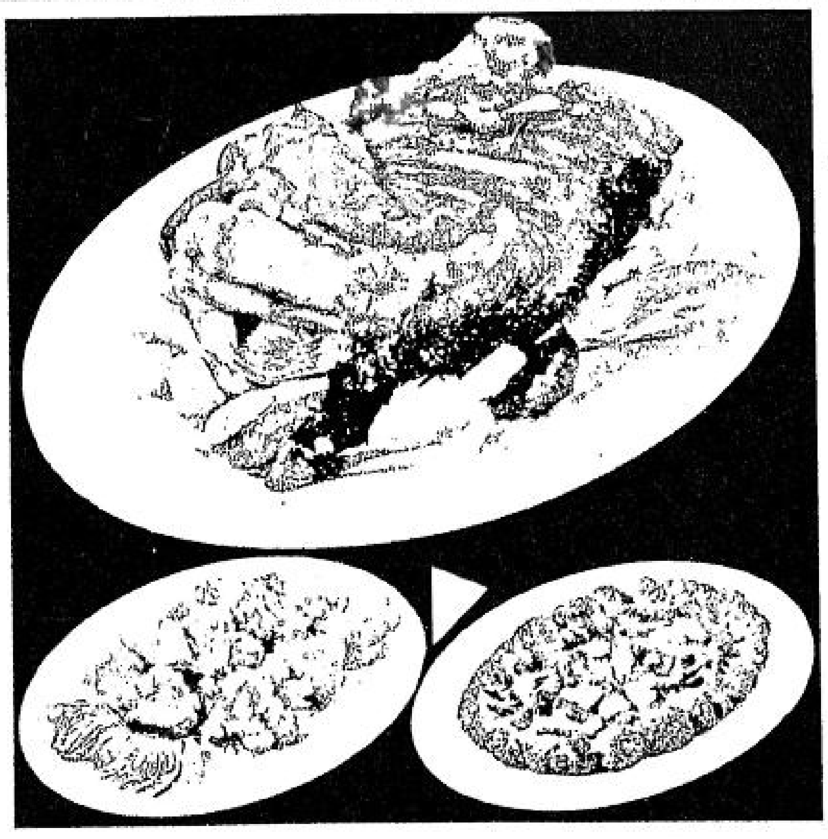
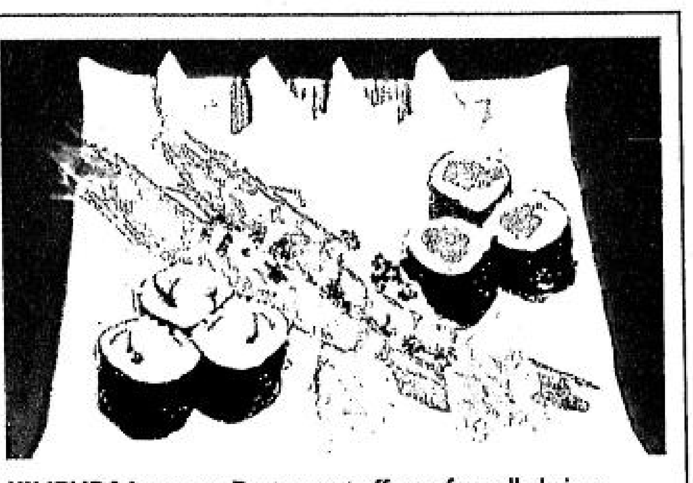


WOK KING AT THE corner of Martinez and San Rafael Streets, Plainview, Mandaluyong (near the City Hall), is an unassuming Chinese restaurant that has been getting good reviews from its customers. Starting as a *bulalo, pares, mami, tapsilog* (and other varieties of "*silog*") restaurant, it now also serves different kinds of noodles, rice toppings and other Chinese favorites. Wok King delivers and also caters for parties of all occasions. It is open 10 a.m.-10 p.m. daily. Call 5324256 or telefax 5353392.



KIMPURA Japanese Restaurant offers a free all-shrimp tempura platter with a minimum food bill of P3,500+ on Oct. 8-30. The restaurant also introduces six dishes: Fresh Raw Tuna Cubes with Coddled Egg Yolks and Sesame Seeds; Raw White Fish Fillets Drizzled with Tangy Pureed Kiwi Sauce; Sushi Plate Combination of Egg Omelet, Cucumber, Tuna Rolls and Cold Prawns; Shrimps and Scallops Wrapped in Nori, Tempura Style; Tender Beef Slices Marinated in Miso and Breaded; and Crabs Simmered with Tofu and Vegetables in Flavored Broth. Kimpura is at 2/L Glorietta 2, Ayala Center, Makati (8932907/ 8924456) and Greenhills Shopping Center, San Juan (7218816/ 7218869).

Happy consumer offers free consultation for resto staff

THE CONSUMER

Marietta Velasco Giron

RARE AS THEY ARE, LETTERS of praises and commendations sent by pleased customers are luxuries we look forward to every time we open our mailbox. These appreciative notes deserve to be published if only to make the good service providers know that their deeds don't go unnoticed.

Take the following note, for example, of Dr. Florence Tadiar, president of the Women's Health Care Foundation, 1589 Quezon Avenue, Quezon City. She wrote how the staff of Mr. Choi's Kitchen at Robinsons Galleria returned the cell phone she forgot in the restaurant.

Impressed by the honesty of the staff, Tadiar wrote a commendation letter to the manager of the establishment. We quote: "For such admirable conduct of the staff, please inform (those) who were on duty at the time my family had dinner at your restaurant, particularly the one who found my phone and gave it to management, (they) would be given free medical consultation and laboratory service at the foundation clinic."

Another letter of praise was sent by R. Berbano (berby_096@yahoo.com). "I want to commend PowerPlant Mall in Rockwell, Makati City. Every time it rains, the guards at the entrances of the mall give out tube-plastics to people going inside so they can put their wet umbrellas there and prevent water from dripping all over the mall. The same establishment also provides its restrooms with toilet paper, hand towels and hand soap."

Blooming Metro Manila

Stop throwing flak at the Metro Manila Development Authority (MMDA) for entwining *cadena de amor* vines around the posts of elevated metro rail tracks. The beautiful *cadena de amor* vines are starting to bloom, and they are a sight to behold, indeed!

Well-known floral architect Rachy Cuna just had to call us to describe the sight while he was passing through Magsaysay Blvd. last Monday. He enthused, "My dear, the blooming *cadena de amor* has transformed the unsightly concrete jungle into a floral spectacle. The posts are now covered with fresh pink flowers.

"It makes beholders forget for a while all the negative news around. Those people who criticized the vines when they were newly planted pre-judged MMDA so harshly. They should see the blooming vines now."

Facts about Gardenia

For some weeks now, a message has been circulating by e-mail about Gardenia bread products.

The e-mail says, "Did you know that (Gardenia) bread is delivered five days a week? Each day has a different color twist-tie. They are: Monday, blue; Tuesday, green; Thursday, red; Friday, white; and Saturday, yellow.

"So if today is Thursday, you would want red twist-tie, not white which is (for) Friday (almost a week old)! I looked in the grocery store and the bread wrappers do have differently colored twist-ties, and even the one with the plastic clips have different colors. Buy bread with the right color on the day you are shopping."

Mary Ann Cabrera, Gardenia's corporate relations assistant manager (maryanncabrera@gardenia.com.ph), sent the following e-mail to explain the supposed color coded. G-lock on the products.

"I would like to correct portions of what has been circulating through e-mail. First, the sealing device Gardenia uses is not a twist-tie but a plastic chip called G-lock that seals in the bread's freshness and is resealable/reusable. The G-lock also provides information like the best-before-date and the suggested retail price. The G-lock color coding is part of Gardenia's quality control system.

"The following are the correct G-lock (color coding) with the corresponding days: Monday, tan; Tuesday, orange; Wednesday, yellow; Thursday, blue; Friday, green; Saturday, red; Sunday, white.

"This means, for example, that on a Thursday, a consumer will see either a Blue G-lock (meaning delivered today) or a Yellow G-lock (delivered yesterday). What is important is for the consumer to check the best-before-date printed on the G-lock.

"Gardenia breads are known to be fresh all the time, and our practice is to replace unsold breads every day during delivery. Gardenia also has personnel inspecting stores to see if products on sale have the correct G-lock colors, otherwise delivery personnel get penalized. This is part of (Gardenia's) freshness guarantee."

Over P1,000,000 in cash prizes!
Text EQPROMO to 2955 now!
EQ
ECONOMY & QUALITY
TEXT-PANALO
NEW YEAR
PA-PREMYO
1
Bumili ng EQ Regular, EQ Colors o EQ Dry at itago ang resibo*!
2
Hanapin sa resibo ang Transaction Number o Serial Number (SN) at i-text kasama ang ibang detalye sa 2955.
3
Bumili ng mas madaming EQ diapers para mas malaki ang tsansang manalo!

Promo Mechanics

1) The promo is open to post-paid and pre-paid subscribers of Globe, Touch Mobile, Smart, Talk N Text, Addict Mobile and Sun Cellular.

2) To get a chance to win, a participant must:

  a) Purchase a pack of EQ Regular, EQ Colors or EQ Dry of any variant or size.

  b) Keep the tape receipt and take note of the receipt's SERIAL NUMBER or TRANSACTION NUMBER (these are marked SERIAL NO. or "S/N" or TRANSACTION NO. and usually found at the top or bottom portion of the receipt).

  c) Text EQPROMO REG <TAPE RECEIPT NO >/<STORE WHERE EQ WAS PURCHASED>/<DATE OF PURCHASE>/<FULL NAME>/<ADDRESS> to 2955

Example: EQPROMO REG 77-888/Landmark/Oct 6/
Gardi Fuentes/120 Union St., Quezon City

3) One-time registration only. There should be one registered name per cellphone number.

4) For succeeding entries, participants simply need to text EQPROMO <TAPE RECEIPT NO >/<STORE WHERE EQ WAS PURCHASED>/<DATE OF PURCHASE> to 2955.

Example: EQPROMO 777888/SM SUPERMARKET/OCT 27

5) For every successful & valid message sent, participants will earn one raffle entry to the monthly and grand draw. One tape receipt number is equivalent to one entry regardless of size and quantity of EQ product reflected in that receipt. Entries with incomplete information will not be considered as valid entries

**IMPORTANT: Tape receipts must indicate the product EQ. For receipts that do not, consumer must request for an OFFICIAL RECEIPT or CASH INVOICE and have the EQ product purchased specified in the OFFICIAL RECEIPT or CASH INVOICE. He must use the OR or Cash Invoice No. as entry to the promo in the format indicated. DO NOT FORGET to keep both the tape receipt and the OFFICIAL RECEIPT or CASH INVOICE as these will be required when claiming the prize.*

6) Participants must keep all their tape receipts as proof of purchase. Failure to present the receipt which contains the winning Tape Receipt Number and transaction details will disqualify the winner from claiming the prize

7) A successful registration, which includes the initial entry is free. For succeeding entries, cost for each successful message sent and received is P 2.50 for Globe, Touch Mobile, Smart, Talk N Text, Addict Mobile, Infinity, and P2.00 for Sun Cellular subscribers. The same rates apply to erroneous registrations.

Draw Dates	Deadline for Texting of Entries	Prizes Number of Winners
Nov. 4, 2005 1st Monthly Draw 6:30pm	Nov. 4, 2005 4:59pm	1 winner of P100,000 5 winners of P20,000 each 5 winners of P5,000 each
Dec. 2, 2005 2nd Monthly Draw 6:30pm	Dec. 2, 2005 4:59pm	1 winner of P100,000 5 winners of P20,000 each 5 winners of P5,000 each
Jan. 6, 2006 Grand Draw 6:30pm	Jan. 6, 2006 4:59pm	1 winner of P500,000 2 winners of P50,000

8) The winners will be drawn electronically via randomizer. The draw will be held at the JS Unitrade Merchandise, Inc. office, 31/F Raffles Corporate Centre, Emerald Ave., Pasig City in the presence of JS Unitrade Merchandise Inc., DTI, and Direct Image Dimensions representatives.

9) Winners may win only once in each draw. In case a person's name is drawn more than once, he is entitled to the prize of greatest value. Non-winning entries are qualified for the succeeding draws.

10) Winners will receive a call on their mobile phones and will be notified via a registered notification letter.

11) Prizes are transferable.

12) Winners will shoulder the 20% tax on prizes exceeding P10,000. Incidental expenses related to winning and redemption, including but not limited to, travel expenses to claim prize, etc., will be for the account of the winners.

13) All employees of JS Unitrade Merchandise Inc., Direct Image Dimensions, Global Wireless Connections and their relatives up to the second degree of consanguinity or affinity are disqualified from joining the promo.

14) To receive weekly promo updates, text EQPROMO ON to 2955. For further inquiries text in EQPROMO ASK <your question> to 2955. Same text rates apply

Promo runs from Oct. 6, 2005 to Jan. 6, 2006.
See posters and flyers for more details.
Per DTI-NCR Permit # 2366 series of 2005